



"This modern age so full of grief. I've turned away from it's belief. I watch society disagrees. And it just looks like one big mess. I can't believe the things I hear or see. In this world there's no remorse. Now's the time we must change our course. Those of us who've seen the way, must stand and fight for a brighter day." *Age Of Quarrel*

Inside this issue:

Death Is Not Glamorous. Affirmation. Sunrise.
Crucial Response Records. Forced Forward. Thoughts.
Cro-Mags "Age Of Quarrel". Columns. Reviews.

AWARENESS * CHANGE * EXPRESSION

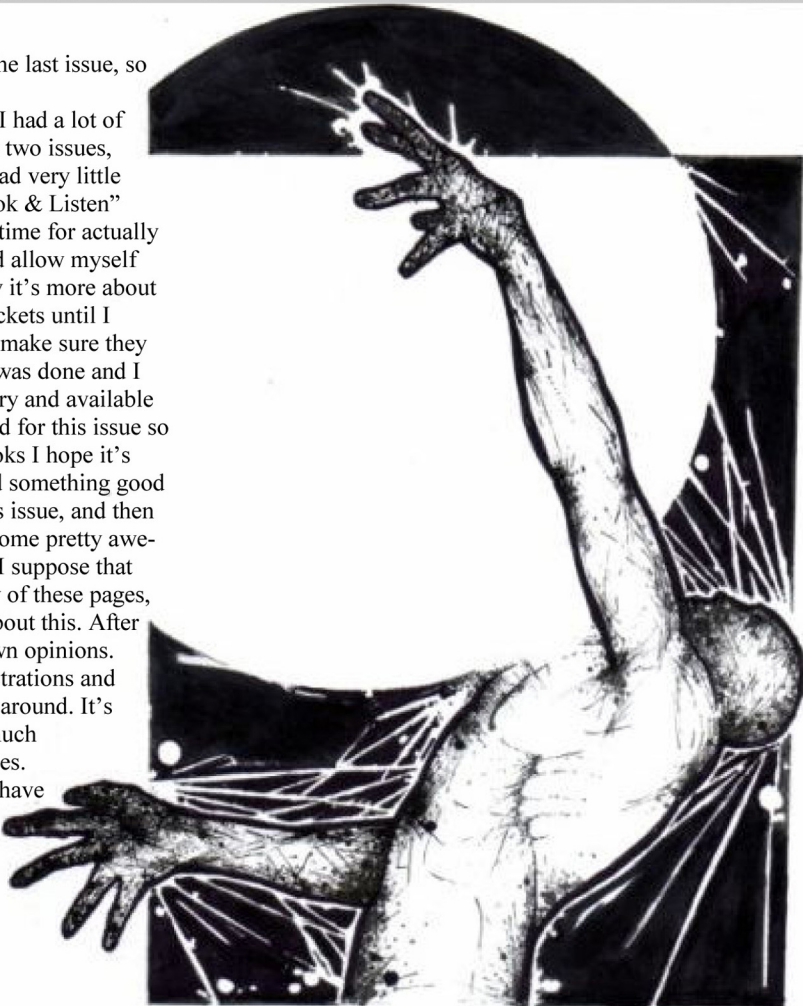
STOP LOOK & LISTEN

Hi. This is Stop, Look & Listen number 3.

There were definitely too many words in the introduction to the last issue, so this time I decided to keep it short.

Well many things have changed for me in the recent months. I had a lot of spare time last year so I could just sit down and write the first two issues, whereas today the priorities have changed a little bit. I have had very little time for anything private or not work related. Still, "Stop, Look & Listen" remains very much on my mind, but there was not that much time for actually transferring it by using computer keyboard. In the past I could allow myself lots of time for typing and editing in front of the screen, today it's more about writing random notes on pieces of paper and carrying it in pockets until I finally have a moment to collect them, put them together and make sure they really represent what I want to say. That's the way this issue was done and I hope the damage isn't too drastic. Change of continent/country and available choices caused changes in the layout, size and printing method for this issue so it seems like it's all gonna look different. Whatever way it looks I hope it's going to be a progression from the last issue and you will find something good on these pages. I didn't get some stuff I wanted to have in this issue, and then everything got delayed due to that. But still I think there are some pretty awesome people in this one with some good things to say. Okay, I suppose that there may be some brave or controversial statements on a few of these pages, but it's only to represent people's ideas and see how we feel about this. After all this is suppose to be challenging and encouraging your own opinions. Besides lack of time, it's still the same struggle with own frustrations and trying to be a bit more creative and aware of what's going on around. It's really great to be getting feedback, so I'd like to thank very much everyone who has written after checking out the first two issues. Sometimes it really surprises me how enjoyable some of you have found this zine and it surely humbles as well as inspires ideas for the future issues. All I can say is thank you for giving it a chance, reading and finding time to share.

This issue is dedicated to all the disconnected who try to connect with the others together creating this community. Thank you all. Until the next issue...Keep Your Eyes Open.
R.



This issue would have not been possible without kindness of the following:

Christian & Death Is Not Glamorous, Peter & Crucial Response Records, Dave & Affirmation, John McKaig, Pat & Sunrise, Vic DiCara, Jasper/A Step Apart, Jason Kolins XXX, Rich Miles. Thank you so much.

Extra thanks goes to Pressure Rising for recording awesome demo and giving me permission to copy it and attach to the first hundred copies of this issue. Check them out : www.myspace.com/pressurerisinghc

Thank you as well for your help and dedicated spirit:

Forced Forward, 108, Erik Anarchy & Soulfire, Adam/Revelation Records, awesome Luke Wolagiewicz, Dziki, Pawel, Patrycja Gagan, The Essence & Last Item, Robert & Abandon Ship, Nico & Sailin On Zine, Robert/Collapse Records, Apostolis (Greece), Ronald/NJW Records, Franke/Crucial Attack Distro, Willxxx, Shawn & Stake Out Distro, Jan & Capeet Distro, Pete/Courage To Care, Diogo/Wake Up And Live Zine, Gather, Pauley (Jax).

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Luke Wolagiewicz, Robbie Redcheeks, Patrycja Gagan, Jase EdgeJedi, Death Is Not Glamorous & friends, Affirmation & friends, Peter/CxR Records, www.cromags.com, www.myspace.com/cromagsfanpage...

Graphics in this issue:

Dziki has been very kind and allowed me to use his drawings on this page (right corner) as well as page 8 and the last one with SL&L logo. Thank you !

Special thanks to my wife Lauren for making it possible too.

"Did you ever question any of the things they thought while you were at school. And did you ever question "Oh my teacher, why do you take me for a fool?". When you are all alone, you'll search for love but they'll have none. This is the seed that they have sewn. Don't be afraid, a better place has yet to come. And when they won't teach or reach or feed you and they do is leave you,



deceive you. Be true to yourself and save your mind. Lesson for the young. So now let's fly away into the light of a brand new sun. The time has come. We'll meditate, communicate, escalate. Don't be late. We just can't wait to liberate this human race. Go! Rise up, you got to rise. Rise up you, wake up and rise. Don't let them to take away your culture. Don't let them to take away your future. Rise up. You got to rise."

"Rise" Bad Brains

Without communication this is one sided experience. Feel free to get in touch:

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Please feel free to visit the website that has some stuff from the zine, live recordings from some Hard Core classic bands as well as new demos from young bands... Don't forget to drop a line in the guestbook !

WWW.STOPLOOKANDLISTENZINE.COM

There is also Inside Out profile that I have created, where you can find demo recordings etc. I'm looking for any old stuff that was printed about this band, so if you have any interviews or show reviews please get in touch!

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/INSIDEOUTHC



John McKaig

an art teacher, a photographer, organizes shows in the Syracuse area
this is a speech given by John at the last New Year's show in Syracuse

"Hardcore is in a confusing state right now. Bands and people present themselves as being part of the hardcore scene when they are not. Corporations and record labels that are not hardcore try and present themselves as if they are a part of the underground, but all they do is what amounts to a co-opting of the surface, style aspects of what they think is our culture, all done with the intent of destroying it. Much of what is said about what hardcore is or isn't needs to be challenged, including what I and the bands say here tonight. This has to be done, because this culture has to be a living, evolving thing, open to honest, constructive criticism. We conduct this critique in order to bring things into the light, and because we need to do this in order to take possession of everything that happens here. This challenge to what is said by me and these bands here tonight also has to be done because this culture that we have built is under attack by people who will do anything to keep us from questioning and critiquing that very culture. They attack it because they are uncreative and uninspired parasites, and they need us in order to define their lame attempt at self-realization.

Hardcore is ... yelling back words to a band vocalist, words very often written by a band member in a dark corner of the room on a lonely night in a time of desperation and agony. Those words are put out there because the world needs them, not because the world needs more entertainment. Hardcore is going-off on the dance floor as if the music and the words are the most important thing in the world to you, and not caring what you look like when you're doing it, and then at the end of the song you look to your friends and give them a hug and let them know that YOU know those words and that music was just as much for them as it was for you. Hardcore is about sticking up for your friends when they're right and when they're innocent, and it's about challenging them and encouraging them to do the right thing when they're in the wrong and they're the aggressor. Hardcore is about using this soapbox for saying something that the world needs to hear, not what the world is already comfortable hearing. Hardcore is getting up here and telling us what you think in a specific, thorough way – it's not chanting trite slogans. Hardcore is about doing something to make this scene and this world better, not talking about doing it or whining about what you think is wrong with it on messageboards and websites. Hardcore is about recognizing that we all are different from the rest of the world, and that we want to keep it that way. We don't want our culture co-opted by corporations and then sold back to us as "alternative". Hardcore is about overcoming the relentless pressure of society that says that to be a man you have to show-off how hard you think you are to your friends, and pose, and objectify women. Hardcore is about overcoming the idea that you should take pride in your physical power and in using that power against those that you think are weaker than you. Might doesn't make right. Hardcore is bands leaving their friends and families for months at a time and traveling in vans all night long and eating crappy fast food and losing sleep just so that they can play to 100 kids so that those kids can finally know what it is to be alive, and to know what real passion and dedication is, if only for that short 30 minute set. Hardcore is about those kids that do shows on their own in small venues and lose money every show just so that they can create an oasis of a real community in this desert of corporate produced, packaged music product. Hardcore is about traveling with your friends to shows so that you can show support to your brothers and sisters in cities everywhere – hardcore is not Syracuse or NYC or Orange County or Boston or Seattle or Montreal or Philly – hardcore is kids everywhere who know what it is to be a part of something that is both big and small ... big enough to include everyone who respects people on the basis of their character, not by the shit that they buy and wear, and not judging them based on the body they were born with ... and small enough to ensure that we remain an antidote to the vile shit that the rest of the world wants to shove down our throat."

"ORCHESTRATION
OF A FACE. AN IMAGE,
A SPECTACLE TO BE HELD
AND VIEWED WITH REVERENCE;
DON'T QUESTION IT. HOLD ON, HOLD ON, HOLD ON TO A
LIE. THEY ARE NOT WHO OR WHAT YOU THINK BUT I KINDA
DOUBT YOU CARE. AN EMPTY AESTHETIC IS WHAT YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR, EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T REALIZE IT, YOU
DON'T WANT TO BE CHALLENGED. SOUL BEARING, IDEA
SHARING BUT NOTHING IS BEING SAID. AN IDEA, A BELIEF
WAS THERE BUT YOU REDUCED IT TO A TITLE, AND I NEED
SOMETHING MORE. WHERE IS THE DOUBT? WHERE IS THE
ANGER? WHERE IS OUR BLOOD? WE HAVE DEAD BLOOD."

"Dead Blood" Forced Forward

xxx
Is there any meaning behind all of this? Is there something that makes it all different than just pointless actions and unvalued existence? Is there anything at all?...I need to go and figure it out for myself. I want to find some answers, I want to search for some understanding and introduce something good out of this in my life. There must be something more, otherwise it feels like nothing has any purpose and I'm just heading for being eaten by worms when the unquestionable end comes.

Where someone finds happiness I see pain. Where I find hope someone finds distress. We all look at the same things that may cause us to feel in the opposite ways and often turn violent. So how is it possible to live next to each other? More than two thousand years have proved that it isn't, or at least not for a longer length of time when one conflict follows another and bloodshed never ends. All that's possible is for us to open eyes and see that others will choose to live in a different way. All that's possible is to try to open minds and realize that other may not agree with us and express their own opinions that put a different light on things. All that may be possible is to limit our possessiveness and greed for domination over

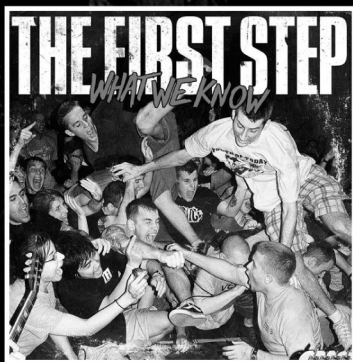
other's existence. One thing is for sure, we easily load guns and open camps for victims of our visions. Whether it's in our own households or on the international arenas, we want superiority and submission. Anything else is just a hope and possibility of change by mending everyday life and our approach.

Not only searching for meaning and happiness, but also hoping to live alongside others without causing amounts of pain and hatred. That's a struggle in itself but that's what has been asked from me once I came living into this world. That's what I have to ask from myself... Otherwise it's no different than a group of dogs that just defend what's theirs and fight anyone who comes close, at times getting to each other's throats to gain more respect. There must be something more, there must be something that makes it different. Anything...

R.
xxx



NOT JUST WORDS RECORDS SPRING RELEASES



The First Step - What we know lp

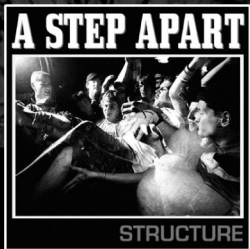


True Colors - s/t 7"



Nothing Done - Powertrip lp

OTHER RELEASES:



Turn The Screw - s/t 7" / A Step Apart - Structure 7" / Remain - As sharp as knives 7" / NTB - Rise from the ashes 7" / Icepick - Goldrush cd



NOT JUST WORDS
R E C O R D S

DE KLING 4 - 8651 CK IJLST - THE NETHERLANDS
WWW.NJWRECORDS.COM - INFO@NJWRECORDS.COM



I got their demo with a friendly note saying that if I love Lifetime I'll like Death Is Not Glamorous. As it happens I like Lifetime and DING remind me of them a lot as well as maybe first Saves The Day record. Anyway these Norwegian dudes know exactly what's needed to create a perfect mixture of Hard Core Punk tunes that bring hope and bright up the darkest moments. This band has recorded some awesome stuff and I recommend that you check them out! If you long for something faster and melodic, that also gives you positive direction then Death Is Not Glamorous are here for you! They have available demo that is going to be re-mastered and released by State Of Mind Records. For now you can visit bands profile and listen to what this band is about!

Christian (singer) was kind enough to answer my questions during January and February of this year. Thank you ! R.

My first impression of Death Is Not Glamorous is that you seem to have very positive approach to life and relationships. Would that be true? Where does your PMA come from?

Hi! Yeah, we try to stay positive in the face of adversity. Sometimes life is full of shit, and it's hard to keep looking up, and that's what we want to focus on in our music. It's like this: for us, a big part of hard-core has been the positive, "get-through-everything" attitude that is implicit in the music. "They're gonna try to drive you into the ground- Never surrender, never go down!"

In this world, it can be hard to live with your head held high, especially if you aren't into all the aspects of society that "they" expect you to be. Shopping, getting wasted every weekend, ignoring the fucked up shit that goes on in other, "less developed" countries, etc. I don't know, without these songs and these words that inspire us, it would be doubly hard.

So how do you face and manage hardships and difficulties in your lives? Do you rely on reaching out for help to others or get through it by yourselves? How important are friendships for you?

I guess we try to deal with shit ourselves, since in the end that's how you gotta go at things. But there are always times when you need to rely on a friend, and then real, true friends are crucial. To have someone who you know understands your shit and will be there for you is incredible, and you can't downplay that.

Can you tell me who and when started the band? What keeps Death Is Not Glamorous going?

We started from an on-the-fly suggestion. Terje, Espen, and Christian were sitting around at some trendy fucking coffee bar, talking about how we wanted to start a punk/hardcore band that didn't all out suck (we had a band then, but everyone was on the wrong instrument except Espen). Terje said he knew a guy who played drums (Even from Damage Control), and that he might be interested if we told him it was an indie rock band, so he sent him a message saying just that and he was down. Later, we got Emanuele to join on bass, and that was great, because he is an awesome guy. And fruit. Fruit keeps us going. Also, I think that the great reception of our demo was a definite engine for us. We heard from all over that people were into it, and that really made us want to make more songs and keep improving. I think we've all found an incredibly volatile outlet for energy and expression through this band, and after just a week without practicing (let alone a month..), the itch to get back in that room with the guys and lose it is almost unbearable!

Living in Oslo do you often feel alone or see other people isolated from each other, despite the fact that it's a big capitol city? How often "the city is so cold and it's getting to your heart"?

To me (C), Oslo is a really cold city, if you subtract the people that I'm close to here. Maybe because the architecture is fairly non-descript and bland, coupled with the cold weather and not nearly enough sun in the winter.. but I also just get this cold-shoulder feeling from the place. People hunched over with their eyes to the ground, outside only to get from their TV to their job while making as little eye contact as possible. That's how I feel anyway, I think a couple of the band members feel different about the city. Espen is from here. The summer is a different story, though!

Why do you think people find it easier to just get stuck on negative aspects of life and don't try to go forward or actually change something for better in their lives? Do you find it annoying?

"If you hate your job, then you've gotta quit, if you hate the city then you've gotta split. It's not so hard to cut those ties and cut-away. Just know: your friends are always behind you. Where ever you go, they'll always be there, like you were always there for them, so thank you. For giving me hope, and making me go head-strong, heartstrong, and all out. And sometimes it's like Blake said (it best) when he wrote. "Did than no one ever live a life this hard?". 'Cause it gets hard, and it gets bleak, and sometimes you've gotta go it alone. But see it through, brave the storm, and you'll see that, come dawn, your friends are all behind you."

"The Fallback"



What made you to become vegetarian? How in your view it benefits you living a vegetarian way?

A few of the guys have been vegetarian/vegan for a long time, I don't think Even has touched the shit for like 13 years. I became vegetarian, then vegan (not just for crustpunch!) like 2-3 years ago after realizing how terrible our society treats animals (and a healthy dose of pro-vegetarian punkrock and hardcore songs on the way home from school every day).. and it was a lot easier and more rewarding than I had thought. For one thing, I feel like there's one count of hypocrisy weighing down my mind, in that I believe firmly that the way we treat animals now is wrong, and I can't let myself participate directly or indirectly in their treatment. I also feel a hell of a lot healthier being vegan than when I ate lots of greasy burgers and fried eggs., so.. I think changing your diet so drastically to accommodate a cruelty-free lifestyle gets you more interested in nutrition in general, the various sources of proteins, minerals, and vitamins and stuff like that. Mix it up with some exercise and a lot of activity (and a cup of coffee) and I feel a lot more energy in which is awesome. Can't get enough!

ITS (ALMOST) 2008 AND THE PEOPLE CONTINUE TO EDUCATE, THEMSELVES, THEIR FRIENDS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND EVERY DAY WE HAVE A MORE CONSCIOUS CARING SOCIETY. ARE YOU WITH ME?

Are there any records/bands that caught your attention recently? What do you think of the present condition of Hard Core scene?

The hardcore scene, in Scandinavia especially, is awesome right now.. We have a lot of great bands out of Norway (Soulfire, Damage Control, Crucial Changes) and Sweden (Another Year, Break It Up, The Kind That Kills) doing they're thing, a lot of awesome zines coming out, and shows are usually well-attended and totally posi.

Lately, besides the bands mentioned already, I've been listening to the Shook Ones, Nothing Done, Sinking Ships, Iron Boots, Crunch Time, Propagandhi, Fucked Up, The First Step, Charge- and always a lot of older bands. Texas is the Reason.

If there was a one thing that you would like people to know or understand about Death Is Not Glamorous, what would that be and why?

"Hardcore is not a background beat for you to move your dancing feet, it's feeling, living, breathing- it's the life for those who love living. It's outrage, energy, compassion- not hate, not violence or fashion." Crucial words.

Thanks a lot for doing the interview!

No problem. Thank YOU! Yo, watch out for an upcoming 7" on Dead and Gone with our name on it!

That should be awesome!

OSLO HARD CORE

DEATH IS NOT GLAMOROUS: *Even Skar, Hauchs gt. 6b, 0175 Oslo, Norway*

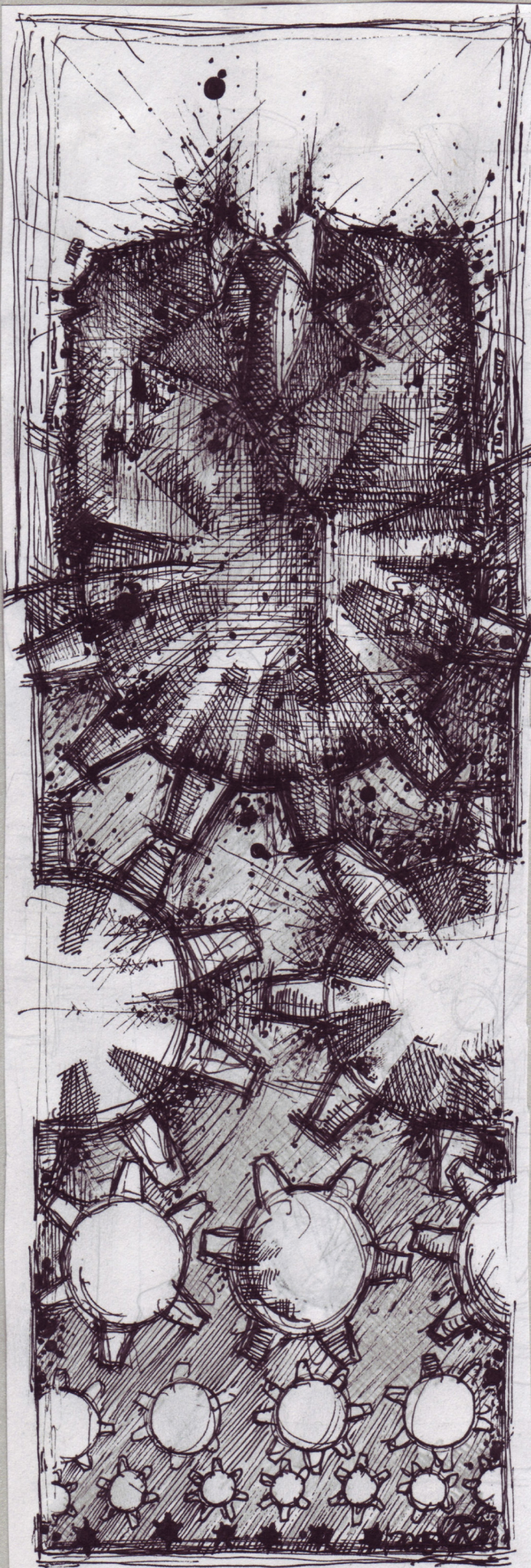
"We've got strong bones and thick skin, encasing hearts full of hope. Minds to fight with, stronger than any fist. Good friends, good times, and wide smiles- we've got that PMA. Think you can take this away? Think you can rain on this parade? Think again, we'll keep right on marching, playing hard, keep screaming, we'll keep moving, we're not giving in. We may not be rich, but we've got more than most, and we're more than content with "discontent". Bonds, like iron chains, tested in fire and fights, they won't break - and we won't let them. we keep them oiled, they won't wear down, and you won't ever wear us down."

"Assets"



www.truexnorth.com
www.deadandgone.co.uk

makes people happy and pumped and feel alive."



So where do we fit with our lives? At a certain age I have been asked what am I going to do with my adult life and what do I see myself doing to earn money that would allow me to stay alive or even get some cheap pleasures, that would satisfy my lowest needs? Well, as confused as I was I chose something I was not interested in at all and it turned into 5 years of chaos fueled by ongoing frustrations. Easy to follow somebody's suggestion, afraid to disappoint, accepting what's been put in front of me as the best solution for my life. But how misleading was it for my own self? Eventually I have made the decision for myself and chose something that allowed me to be more or less happy and not hating my life because I hate my job. That caused grim expressions on some faces but well, after all it's my life and it's mine to do something with it. How much of your life do you feel like is actually yours? Do you have freedom to make a choice regarding what are you going to do with it? So many times we are put under pressure, presented with a narrow choice framed into the convenient picture and made to feel like we are in control, because we can pick from whatever it's being offered to us and hopefully we would accept, in order to secure that the wheels in the machine will keep spinning.

*"Who wants to live when to live is to slave?
Breaking their backs just to see another day.
Who wants to live when to live is to slave?
Killing themselves to find another way.
Trapped in the cell of a nine to five,
can they ever say they're really alive?"*
Lion Of Judah "Trapped"

We may never get on the streets to burn some cars, we may never scream at the top of our lungs holding a banner in our hands, we may think that we never care for what society does and therefore we are not guilty of anything... But still decisions we make as consumers can be the most political or influential in our day to day life. The system and market are screwed up enough and tangled up that it's almost impossible to live in this society and not to support greedy corporations that profit from human exploitation (well, which ones don't?). We can try hard, but in one way or another we'll keep marking our banknotes with somebody's misery caused by profits going into companies bank accounts. Does it mean that we should stop caring and just let it go?

Well, I think it's still important that we educate ourselves and try to become as conscious as we can in regard to the products we buy. Like I said it seems like it's impossible to live completely free of others "slave" labor, but its worth to try to minimize it and become more aware of where our money goes to and who profits from our purchases. After all we are all paying and our most direct way of voicing opinion can be by supporting or avoiding certain items.

*"What you consume is your only true protest,
each dollar you spend supports what you detest..."*
Morning Again "Martyr"



FRUIT OF OUR NATIONS LABOR

Forced Forward

Rich Miles on the lyrics that are going to appear on their debut record

I have asked Rich if he would like to say something more about his lyrics, especially these that are gonna be on their debut LP. He agreed and my role was immediately limited to mostly listening. I don't know if you should consider this as "explanations" to Forced Forwards' lyrics, I think it's more about what emotions are behind them, what circumstances surround them and what have they enabled the band to express. Their CD/LP will be out in March on Collapse Records and I highly recommend this material if you miss bands like Ressurrection/Threadbare, and search for awesome lyrical content that is both personal and socially conscious...R.



1. Desecrator

It's essentially an indictment of a culture that I feel is sick and on the verge of death due to our uncaring and selfish ways. I would go so far as to say that it's an indictment of me as well, but mostly more of a sort of assessment of a world that I see as self-destructive and yet completely arrogant and self-congratulatory. I would also say, that it is aimed at those who have been exposed to different ways of thinking but still don't care. Those who know wrong from right but still don't care and just look the other way because our society nurtures selfishness. High School it seems to be the epitome of cruelty to a young person who already doesn't fit in. So I saw people who are completely materialistic and fake. Do you feel less under "attack" today since you are older but still do not fit in? Yes. Well, I work in an office with a Vegan office policy. So it's kinda a shelter. In the same way, Hardcore/punk is a bit of a shelter. It's easy to forget about how fucked up the outside world is if you only hang out with kids and talk about how awesome the Antidote 7" is. I would say in general, I'm much more at ease and much more comfortable with who I am now, though. But I do feel less under attack in general, yes. I feel that I'm more ON attack haha!

2. End Days

It's somewhat along the same lines. We our destroying our earth and our relationships with each other are deteriorating quickly. We can only do that for so long before the bottom falls out, you know haha? And I'm aware, this is something that's been happening for a LONG time now. And it will continue. But we don't care about each other. And that's a major problem. Forget the earth, I honestly feel our callous nature towards one another will lead to the world's downfall long before all the pollution from the factories and everything does. What feeds this callous nature in your opinion? Well, I don't know... I can't really track where it comes from. But I think that I live in a nation where our president dresses up a lie. Any rational human realizes that we are on another continent killing people essentially for material desires. For Oil, essentially. And protection of this resource that we all are "addicted" to. And this comes from George Bush's own lips. I mean, none of us are innocent. You and I love records. Records are made from Oil. I love travel and so do you. That takes oil. It's sad but we're in a culture that is addicted to it. Because we're accelerated in just about every manner one can be accelerated. adventurous souls once had to take ships across dangerous seas for months at a time. Now we hop on a plane and can be anywhere we desire in a day. I don't know. Travel is not bad. Communication and art is NOT bad. What I'm talking about is so minimal compared to what the true opportunists are killing people over. But we as a western culture cannot stand free of blame.

3. Empty

This is the much more personal end... We all are in love with connections. At least I am. I'm in love with making some sort of bond with any human. Whether it's on what kind of music I like, or more romantic connections. And there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. Love is amazing and should be. However, sometimes, we aren't in connections with our own selves. And we don't want to be. Perhaps, pain from our life keeps us from wanting to connect to deeply with your self. But it often dooms us to situations that ultimately leave us empty. Situations where we scare a person off or we put them so high up on

a pedestal that when they don't reciprocate or show reciprocation in the manner that you want. It ultimately knocks you down further into depression. And you're ultimately left with a spot that you had saved for a person or an activity or a community. To Kill the pain that you would have to deal with if you were more in touch with yourself (MY SELF). So this song may seem to be an attack on a person. When in reality, it's an attack on myself. It's a song about addiction, in a way. I'm straight edge. Some people, specifically, UC stated that Straight Edge was "anti-obsession" and ideally, it would be. But we all have our vices. Whether it's food, alcohol, drugs, sex, love, whatever. I don't have that much of a foot up on anyone because of my lifestyle! It's one of the few things healthy about me, I think. And this song is NOT saying Love is wrong. Quite the opposite. I think it's one of the most important things we can do is feel. Which so many of us are afraid of. But, in the same sense, you can't expect others to be where you're at. And when they aren't, you can't hate them for their own issues. If anything, you should look more closely at your own issues.

4. Dead Blood

There is often times when I'm just disgusted by the lack of passion and the desire to play a part rather than make the music and the art a part of ones identity and a means to express one's self. Perhaps for some of these bands it IS a means to express themselves but I question the genuine-ness of this because portraying an aesthetic often seems to be much more of the objective. Once again, this is just what I think I see and it could be wrong. This song also deals with Straight Edge and how once again, it's something that's a positive step in one's life to cut out things that are unnecessary and oftentimes harmful but most people are far more interested in all the shit that has come to be known with straight edge rather than the actual actions of it.

5. Hear Me

This song is pretty self-explanatory. It deals with frustration and communication. Sometimes just wanting to be heard by one person is all-consuming. It's not looking for an answer, it's not criticizing my actions; it's simply dealing with the frustration of just wanting someone to hear what you're saying and really know what you're saying.



Pic. courtesy of the band



Cro-Mags
"Age Of Quarrel"
Profile Records
1986

I can assume what might be going through some of you when looking at this page. Another one that brings back something that's just a history and there have been more important things that happened in the recent years...Maybe, but this is a tribute to something special to so many: Cro-Mags – "Age Of Quarrel". It's even hard to describe the influence and importance of this title in the Hard Core scene. I think we all realize how many times these three words are being mentioned by various people when asked about the most influential Hard Core records of all times. You may find Minor Threat, Agnostic Front, Black Flag or Bad Brains, but you can be sure that Cro-Mags are going to be there as well and in their own, special way. It's got nothing to do with any kind of hype, because I think you either like this band and what they stood for, or you just give yourself a break. There's nothing wrong with this, and all I'm trying to say is that Cro-Mags were one and only paving the path for so many who followed in the decades to come. Just imagine how vicious, rebellious and innovatory these songs must have been in 1986 and these tracks keep it up until today.

Well, I think at some point in the past years people had a right to be confused about the discussions that have been going on around who the true Cro-Mags are. I think that anyone interested could have answered these questions for themselves, based on their own experience with this band and their music. For me the songs speak the loudest and as much as I may not be able to tell you who was right in these arguments, I can certainly tell you how I feel listening to i.e. "By Myself" and how this song helps me to get through the hardest moments. And that's what these next few pages are about.

I have asked a whole bunch of people to share their experience with this record and the impact it has had on them, as well as the others involved in their local scenes. I got only a few responses and I would like to thank Jason, Vic and Jasper for their thoughts. I'm not trying to idolize anything, but simply present living examples of how hugely this LP have impacted people's lives and is important to so many. This band definitely isn't just a history since their music and message still lives on!

If you would like to write about your own experiences with this record or band, please get in touch and I will be happy to print it in the next issue. For now, everybody, this is Cro-Mags and 'Age Of Quarrel' 20 years later...R.

"There's gotta be some

Cro-Mags

"Cro-Mags AOR. Twenty Years Later."

by Jason Kolins (Burden)

I can remember back, clear as day, to when I first discovered the Cro-Mags. It was 1986, and I was a pimply faced metal head of thirteen years old, living in the suburbs of Vancouver, Canada, just starting junior high school. My favorite bands at that time, were Metallica, Slayer, Anthrax, Megadeth, and Metal Church, pretty much the heaviest stuff that my friends and I had managed to get our grubby little hands on. Once school had started that fall, I met a bunch of kids that were full on into skateboarding, and instantly clicked with them. I bought a board, and got right into the skating sub-culture. The skaters at my school were big into music as well, and though they liked thrash and speed Metal, they were way more into the crossover, punk and hardcore bands, that they read about monthly, in the Pus-Zone articles in the back of Thrasher Magazine, that they quickly turned me onto. It seemed, that for skating, only the fastest bands would do, so everyone was always on the lookout for the newest bands. The Accused, DRI, COC, Suicidal Tendencies, Cryptic Slaughter, SOD, Excel, Death Sentence, Minor Threat, The Misfits, they were all popular bands of the time. One day, while hanging out, I was told about a band called the Cro-Mags from New York City. Someone had bought their first record, and word was spreading, that this was the best new band out there. Sure enough, the hype was building. Thrasher was all over this record 'The Age Of Quarrel', and even ran a short interview, with pictures of these crazy, mean looking, tattooed skinheads, I was intrigued, and had to find a copy of this record. I managed to score a dubbed cassette of the record from a friend, but the volume was so low, I could barely make out anything at all, boy was I bummed out. Months later, I was watching Much Music's Pepsi Power Hour, and after several videos of their staple metal bands, the host announced that "coming up, was a band from New York, called the Cro-Mags, with a video from their first album, called "We Gotta Know", I was ecstatic to say the least! As I eagerly watched with anticipation, the video starts, the drum stick clicks, followed by the classic 'duhn, duhn' ringing guitar chords, leading into what is undoubtedly, the heaviest song intro ever. Meanwhile, the video continues, the camera is panning the crowd, what the heck, where's all the long haired dudes? I've never seen anything like this before. I see a lot of scary punks and bald guys, clips of the bands hanging out backstage, but wait... The intro ends, the song explodes, the band is onstage going nuts, the crowd is a sea of flailing arms and legs, while bodies fly off the stage, the band goes off, and singer is jumping around like a maniac, man, this is nothing like the metal videos I've been watching since I was a kid, this is pure energy! The insanity continues, where at the videos conclusion, John Joseph does a full flip off the monitor at the front of the stage, into the crowd. What have I just seen? Needless to say, I was absolutely blown away by what I had just witnessed. In short, it was the Cro-Mags, that was the very first visualization I had of the hardcore scene, that really opened my eyes to, and would eventually drive me, to seek out and research hardcore, the music and the scene that would become my full musical passion in life. I would soon also be turned onto some of my other favorite HC bands through Much Music. Agnostic Front, Bad Brains, and Sick Of It All, whose videos, also solidified to me that hardcore, with it's stripped down musical energy, and lyrics based on reality and personal convictions, definitely spoke and appealed to me miles more than what metal was offering me. I was getting older, and had found something new and real, thanks to the Cro-Mags!

As years went on, I slowly became fully immersed in hardcore, I went straight edge at eighteen, started my first HC band in '92, put on shows, and more recently, helped start a 'zine, and sang in a straight edge band called Burden, with whom I was fortunate enough to put out a handful of releases, and tour throughout North America and Europe. Though the Cro-Mags weren't a straight edge band, they have always had the biggest inspiration and influence on me, more than any other. No one else even comes close. They are my favorite band, and 'The Age Of Quarrel', even twenty years later, is still my favorite record ever. It is one of the few records, that still sends shivers down my spine when I hear it. It is truly one of a kind. Through their lyrics, I learned to believe in myself, stand up

meaning

to

the

purpose

of life..."

"Age Of Quarrel"

for what I believe in, not put up with people's shit, what comes around, goes around, and to think for myself, as well as have an open mind, traits that quite a few people in the scene these days never seemed to pick up on. When MySpace, the internet site, started a music section for bands, tons of pages started popping up for old bands, mostly done by fans themselves. I was seeing pages for a lot of old bands, some more well known, some obscure, but it wasn't until I strangely saw a page for the California band Insted, (who I happen to like), that I said enough is enough, and decided right there that I had to do a tribute page for the Cro-Mags. In June 2005, The Cro-Mags "Fan-Page Of Quarrel" was born, and nine months later, has almost 1500 people from all over the world as 'friends. Though 1500 may not be a huge number, it grows larger everyday, usually by twenty to thirty people. A very cool factor about the page, and it's friends content, is that it's not just people into hardcore, there's an equal amount of metalheads, punks, skinheads, and even normal people, mostly older, that sign up to be a friend of the Cro-Mags. You can read their comments and testimonials, that attest to just how significant and influential the Cro-Mags were, and still are in the world of punk, hardcore and metal. They are nothing short of legendary. With the twenty year anniversary of "The Age Of Quarrel" upon us, I, amongst many, many others had been hoping that the band members would be able to put aside their differences and do at least one final show, but it looks as though this won't happen. I was lucky to see the Cro-Mags live in '89, and in 1990, and it looks like I may have to hold those memories dear, along with my old videos, but I will always keep my fingers crossed, that I will get to see them at least one more time down the line. Much thanks to Robert for asking me to contribute this piece for his fanzine, and especially to the Cro-Mags, for everything over the past twenty years, and for giving us the best record of all time. Much respect.

Jason Kolins XXX

www.myspace.com/CroMagsFanpage

Cro-Mags "Age Of Quarrel"

by Vic DiCara (Inside Out, 108...)

1986 was an amazing year for Hardcore punk. First there was "I Against I", then there was "Age of Quarrel". Again, the "Age of Quarrel" is a snapshot of the Cro-Mags at their best moment in the stream of time. These were some serious bad-ass motherfuckers who took metal into New York City Hardcore (but, balanced, not over the top like other bands have done it, or like it became on their forthcoming records), and who took macho, testosterone-driven music to the very limit that it can go to and still remain amazing, without becoming dumb.

In fact, balancing all this metal and macho was this really weird thing called Hare Krishna. Yes, these guys who were living on the street and beating people up were also eating vegetarian food and learning about philosophy from the Hare Krishna temple in Brooklyn. That brings an element of yin, of substance and gentleness into their lyrics and subtle vibe.

This record had a huge impact on my life, resulting in me becoming

a Hare Krishna for about 10 years. The Cro-Mags were, at the time, the white man's Bad Brains. The Bad Brains were the undisputed kings, but how far could a white audience get into their Rastafarianism? Enter the Cro-Mags, with the white version of Rasta: Krishna (although Krishna himself is black, but that's another story).

Age of Quarrel opens with the most danceable hardcore punk song ever written, "We Gotta Know." On this track drummer Mackie Jayson lays down some serious Jazz while the guitar and bass simply pound away New York Hardcore style creating something that got your feet taping and your fists punching.

"Malfuction" took the tempo down several notches, and kept your hips and fists moving the whole 3 plus minutes. "I just can't get through to you, in spite of the ways I try, or any of the things that I do. Maybe I'd be better off talking to a wall, because you ain't making any sense at all."

Who can forget "Hard times" with the ultra-perfect, ultra-frightening sing-along, "Cro-Mag! Skinhead! Breakout! Now!"

And the philosophical "Life of My Own," pronouncing, "You come into this world, with nothing except your soul. You leave this world with nothing except your soul."

Age of Quarrel is the simplest way to define New York Hardcore.

"Crush The Demoniac"

by Jasper (A Step Apart)

Alright, once again it's one of those days. You know, when you're just sick of seeing all the crap people pull. I know that's all very generic and very 'oh I'm punk, it's me against the world'-ish but let me diverge on it a little more. There are certain things that bother me that I run into almost every day. I'll be walking around in my barrio and I'll see people making a fuss about things that, in my opinion, are completely irrelevant.

Bragging about their new mode of transportation (be it a car, a scooter or whatever), spending time polishing their jewellery etc. So many people spend so much time thinking about themselves that they never stop and think about the rest of the world. Sometimes I just want to grab them by the throat and scream...





Cro-Mags "Age Of Quarrel" 1986-2006

"DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON IN THE REST OF THE WORLD?!"

But then I realize that they most probably don't know what's going on in the rest of the world, even though they should.

I mean, I'm not asking for them to find a cure for AIDS or to find a solution that will unite all of mankind forever... because I know some things just can't be done. And I know that we should not have mercy on people that obviously have some sort of screw loose... and sometimes you just get the urge to take justice into your own hands so you can survive out there... just to see how far you can go. And when you face some really tough times and you're all alone it can be a real struggle so have you make sure that people don't walk all over you. Face it, if you want to be treated well you have to treat others well, even though in the end all you have is yourself when you enter this world... and it's all you have when you leave it. It's just signs of how these days are.

It seems like most people only treat each other with respect when they need something from the other person, it rarely happens that someone actually does something for someone else without demanding something in return, just because they think it's the right thing to do. Today's 'society' only supports this kind of behavior by accepting it as normal human behavior, by saying that these things are not 'sins', by saying it's a part of human nature and by saying that these things should be allowed. Some things should NOT be allowed. And I'll be walking down the street, thinking about all that stuff...and then I'll realize that nothing in this world is certain. Everything is just temporary, material things, love and hate, life and death... nothing in this world is certain...

EXCEPT THE FACT THAT THE CRO-MAGS WILL ALWAYS BE THE HARDEST FUCKING BAND EVER.

Admit it, how can you deny that the Cro-Mags wrote the perfect soundtrack to this crazy era? Society just keeps sinking deeper and deeper in a seemingly bottomless pit because people attach more and more value to things like money and power and, even worse, because this sort of behavior is seen as 'normal'. I can accept the fact that some people that are into hardcore have some troubles with the Cro-Mags post-AOQ but I seriously can not understand that there are people who claim that they love hardcore but think that Age of Quarrel sucks.

The We Gotta Know intro is one of the best intro's in hardcore history, it's just genius in its simplicity... It's tough as nails yet there is an underlying groove that adds a little extra atmosphere*analyse van AOQ* Of course, Age of Quarrel is a masterpiece from beginning to end but there are a few songs that have always affected me more than others. Somehow It's the Limit always gets my adrenaline flowing like crazy and I get really nervous when I hear that song. I just imagine John Joseph singing that song on stage and just going completely nuts and I just get this feeling that starts in my brain and slowly spreads to my entire body and somehow all my vital bodily functions are transformed into one single thought: 'MOSH MOTHERFUCKER!'.

Sometimes I'll even get flashbacks to No Denial shows where they covered It's the Limit and where Big would just lose it whilst shouting I DON'T WANNA SEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!! Holy diver, just typing this and thinking about that song is getting me all worked up. This one time, I was listening to the Cro-Mags in my car while waiting for a traffic light to switch to green and It's the Limit was playing...when the light had switched to green I couldn't pull up because my engine had shut itself off because I had just been going off inside my car. Another time I had to go to the hospital to have my arm checked because I had almost broken my own arm losing it to that song.

Even when it's not 'your thing' you'll have to see the genius of this band and the later albums (unless you want to keep complaining about all the fights within this band - fights that, in my opinion, have only contributed to the myth of this band). Age of Quarrel is the manifest for a bad that is not just band, but a band that has gone beyond the borders of being a band and has transformed into something mythical that is almost religious to some people (including me). By dismissing the later albums as 'shitty metal' the essence of the lyrics of those later albums is completely lost. The lyrics on Age of Quarrel mostly deal with how hard life on these streets was (and face it, the Cro-Mags are one of the few bands that get away with it because those guys actually did live on the streets) but you can find a hint in the lyrical direction of things to come in songs like 'Seekers of the Truth'.

The second album also starts with a majestic drum intro. Sadly by this time Mackie has left the band but Pete Hines does a pretty good job kicking you right in the face with his drumming. Best Wishes also makes it clear that this band has more to them than catchy songs and tough lyrics because here the band also sings about a subject like vegetarianism. Once more their views concerning society are expressed but in a different way than before, the lyrics are not just about the struggle to survive on the streets but they deal with people's motivations for their actions and how you can give a positive impulse to your own life. If Harley sang like the way he sings on Revenge then this would have been without a doubt my favorite Cro-Mags album, even though I prefer John Joseph's vocals. A lot of people that are into Age of Quarrel also dig Best Wishes but most people leave it at that... and that's where they're really missing out on something.

Musically, Alpha Omega is definitely the Cro-Mags' masterpiece with amazing songs like Changes, The Other Side of Madness and the eight minute long epic Apocalypse Now (the live version on Hard Times in an Age of Quarrel is even better... APOCALYPSE NOW MOTHERFUCKER!). JJ and Harley both have vocal duties on this album which makes it extra interesting. The lyrics are mostly a continuation of those on Best Wishes but they also show some introspective on the minds of both of these intriguing front men.

Near Death Experience is a pretty big letdown for a lot of kids because they think it's 'just a boring hardrock album'. The same people probably think Danzig sucks compared to the Misfits. What the hell do they know anyway? I think every single one of these records is pure genius although I have to admit that it took me a while to truly appreciate

NDE, possibly because the production is shitty compared to BW and AOQ. I had to get used to the punky songs on Revenge but not because they're bad... it's just because the White Devil songs on that album are so much better! Harley's vocals sound better than ever and Rocky George plays some pretty amazing solos. It's a good record, but it's still a step down from Near Death Experience.

About Harley and JJ... I've seen them both as frontmen and although I've probably seen the Mags with JJ a lot later than some of the crucial geriatrics that doesn't affect the fact that he was simply the best frontman that I have ever seen in any band whatsoever. Harley is a great frontman and has definitely got a great voice but JJ has something that Harley lacks and that is Charisma. Yes, I write it with a capitol C because he's got truckloads of it. Harley is fucking insane and it's great to see him go wild on stage... but John Joseph doesn't even need that. He's got motherfucking Charisma. Charisma that will not only make you respect him but that will make you want to kneel down and pay respect to him.

There isn't a single band that I listen to as often as the Cro-Mags (although Integrity, Danzig and Black Sabbath come close) and no matter how often I hear their music it never bores me. Even when I feel completely beat and tired, fuck it, the Cro-Mags always bring me up again. It's hard to describe what it feels like to truly LOVE a band, love the music etc. so I'm not even going to try. The only thing I know is that there is nothing in this world that can give me the same feeling as this band's music. Call it pathetic, call it exaggarating, call it posing, I don't give a fuck because I believe that it is a privilege that something simple like the music of a band can give me this amazing feeling.

As for the best album by the Mags... It's difficult to say. AOQ, BW and AO are almost too different to be able to truly compare them to each other but I have to admit that I listen to BW and AO more often than I listen to AOQ... but that might just be because I've already heard AOQ about 10000 times. I'm not really sure. It's difficult to explain but sometimes I just have a craving for those hardrock grooves that the later songs have. But hey, if I had to make a tape for a deserted island side A would contain Age of Quarrel and side B would probably have Danzig's Lucifuge on it. It all depends on my mood I guess and that's the beauty of the Cro-Mags, they've got something for every mood.

I hope 2006 will be the year where it becomes clear that people that claim they love hardcore but don't like the Cro-Mags should not have a place in this scene. It think it's for the best if we take the first step by saying 'You're into hardcore but you don't like the Cro-Mags? That's not possible'. *Jasper*

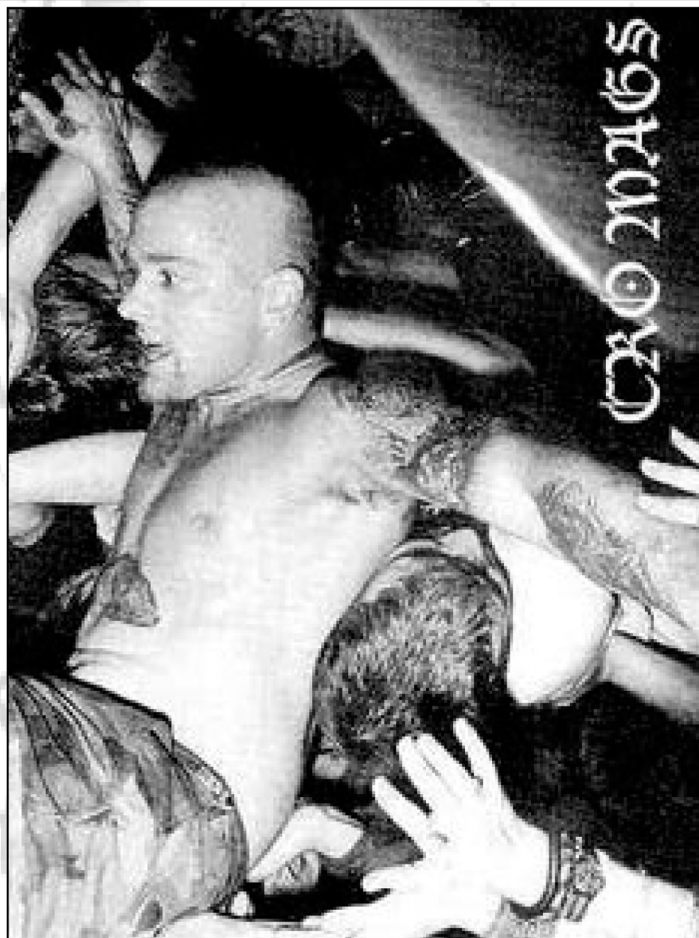


By Myself

“Fightin it's such a struggle and
I got so far, Got so far to go
Don't want to except no answers
But I ain't got nothing,
Got nothing to show, It's such a struggle
but I gotta do it by myself
Can't except no logic so
I gotta do it by myself
Such a lonely path but I can't turn my back
Can't turn my back right now
See I got a role to play
And I gotta fill it, gotta fill it somehow
I set myself on this path and now
Now it's just too late I'd put it all aside
but you see this madness just won't wait
Talk nice things but I see I'm really
I'm really overflowing with hate
I'm talkin, I'm talkin but
I never seem to motivate
The answers you say they're outta reach
But first you gotta learn
and then only can you teach
You say I'm insecure but
ain't you scared of death,
Cause everyone's grabbing,
holding for their
final breath.”

“Signs of the times,
They're all around us
No one will look you in the eye
you don't know who to trust
I'm lookin around me and
don't like what i see corruption all around me
Cause these, these are the signs of the times
Seems like they're losing their minds
These are the signs of the times
Do you think that we're really progressin
just seems to me like some steady regression
I'm lookin on and watchin it corrode
Gotta hold back or i'm gonna explode
Take a look at where we're going
I'm seeing the signs and what they're showing
I'm totally in disbelief of modern man
and all his grief
These are the signs of the times”

Signs Of The Times



All pictures were taken from various sites, including www.cro-mags.com as well as www.myspace.com/cromagsfanpage. If you had taken any of these please get in touch !

PRINTED WORD.

At Both Ends # 7 – 88 pages/A4-ish

(Modern Life Is War, Paint It Black, Shellac, Bane, Regulations, This Is Hell...)

This issue seems to be less packed with ads, or they are just placed in a different way. Anyways it's good as always and I was looking forward to the interview with Modern Life Is War which came out interesting. For me one of the best things in this issue is "Issues beyond Hard Core" which presents different problems and causes in the outside world that are worth getting to know. It's a shame really that, like the author wrote, the response to this poll was kind of small. Still, it's a cool idea. Besides that you will find usual reviews, interesting columns, some more vegan recipes (this time for your breakfast meals!), Bane tour photo story and lots of other stuff. And thanks for the reviews of both issues of SL&L. I promise not to bother the editors anymore haha.

www.atbothendsmagazine.com

Courage To Care # 6 – 40 pages/A4

(LOJ, Shook Ones, Grave Mistake Records, Braindead, A Step Apart...)

This is my reason to shame as probably this zine is one of the most important things going on in the UK scene and I have missed all 5 previous issues. And this is such a good read! In this issue you can find interviews with many good bands as well as a very thorough UK scene report (there is a lot going on in this country!), a column on putting out a record and tons of reviews of music and zines. Again thanks for the SL&L review. That really made my week! Courage To Care is cut'n'paste and you can see that the editors know what they are doing with their scissors. Wherever you are from it is definitely worth checking out!

www.couragetocare.co.uk

Define The Meaning # 1 – 36 pages/A4-ish

(Rise Against, With Honor, Comeback Kid, Folly, Triple Threat, Soulfire, writings, reviews...)

The name alone is really cool and I was hoping that the content will be going along the same lines, proposing something interesting! And when it arrived in mail I wasn't disappointed, although I was expecting more writings etc. But there are good interviews, and I especially enjoyed reading about Triple Threat and Soulfire. I like also reviews from shows that I wish so much I was printing in this zine. I have always loved them and it's cool to see someone doing it again. I didn't get though the way "Fashion-Core" column is written, but whatever, I can kind of see the point. The most important thing is that this zine has a character and reasons for staring it are very sincere and reveal a true passion for Hard Core. That's always a high score in my book. Really worth checking and I hope that it's not gonna finish on this issue and Define The Meaning will be developing!

No contact provided, but I'm pretty sure they are on MySpace.

ENZK # 10 – 26 pages/A4 (plus compilation CD)

(Allegro, I Stand Alone, Engage, Downslide, Reaching Forward, The Fight Back...)

Fuck, the 10th issue! I hope to be able to achieve something like this one day. ENZK is dedicated to the Scottish HC/Punk scene and presents mostly bands from the North. They have a lot going on, that's for sure! There is a CD that goes with this issue entitled "This Is Scotland and Not LA" that can give you an idea what the interviewed (and many others) bands sound like. It'd be more awesome to read more columns written by local kids. The zine is cool anyway and you can find out a whole lot from

the interviews. If you wanna find out about Scottish HC/Punk scene do not hesitate and find ENZK!

www.angelfire.com/wi/enzk
enzkfanzine@hotmail.com

Get With The Program # 1 – 28 pages/A5

(Break A Sweat, By The Kids Records, Ceremony, Have Heart, Set your Goals, When Tigers Fight)

I was looking forward to reading this zine as it has the interview with When Tigers Fight and since I had never read anything by them I was curious. It is pretty cool, although a bit short but it lets you find out all the necessary things about WTF and why they are around. Apart from the interview there is a survey on Straight Edge within today's HC scene which came out great. I'm glad that Stevie tries to present something more then just the regular music stuff.

www.myspace.com/getwiththeprogram

One Kind Word # 1 – 48 pages/A4

(+ compilation EP)

(Damage Control, The Defense, Force Of Change, The Legacy, The Change, Cinder...)

This is the first issue of the zine that's coming out of Barcelona. Even though they present bands from all over Europe One Kind Word as well loyally supports the local scene. It is a very enjoyable reading and one thing that's characteristic for me of One Kind Word are questions in the interviews that are often long and present editors own views before you can actually read band's answers. This is a very cool approach and can be really interesting. Apart from the interviews with above bands there is a column by Erik Anarchy (dude!), Cinder US tour report, Barcelona scene reviews and lots of photos. The bands that are inside are also appearing on the 7inch that comes with the zine so if you don't know someone you can easily get an idea what do they sound like. Keep it up!

www.barcelonahardcore.com

Plonk Zine # 1 – 12 pages/A4

Art zine with 12 pages of drawings done by a dude with a signature saying "Talk Seek". From that I know he's already done some art work for a few HC bands and they all look pretty sweet. His stuff is black and white and mixes a few different styles. If you are looking for someone with good skills to do covers/logos and likes for your project then get in touch at:

talkseek@yahoo.com

Re/Fuse # 4 – 32 pages/A3

(Ian MacKaye, Soft Pink Truth, Shikari, The Je Ne Sais Quoi, The National Anthems...)

The content of this zine is awesome as always and I love the layout. I'm getting used to the size of Re/Fuse as I have not been really convinced to A3 format haha! But anyway this zine/paper absolutely rules and I think it's one of the best European things published right now. This issue features interviews (Ian MacKaye!) as well as lots of good columns that discuss different topics. Form politics to music, something inspirational for everybody. Lots to read, lots to think about-that's what makes an excellent zine in my world and Re/Fuse is definitely one of them.

www.refusefanzine.com



Rise Above # 1 – 28 pages/A5-ish
(Blacklisted, Iron Age, Iron Boots, Lion Of Judah)

Funny thing, when I first time saw the cover for this zine I thought it'd be a bigger size but it came out half smaller and still looks great. Two photos of kids stage diving and going nuts during the Underdog show at Posi Fest'05. The zine has interviews with Iron Age and Iron Boots, bands that are talked about in the scene a lot, but I hadn't had a chance to read anything with them before so it was a good opportunity. Besides there are Blacklisted and LOJ as well as Gorilla Biscuits reunion pictorial and bunch of very well written musical reviews (that's the skill I'm lacking and keep on practicing :-). Very cool debut and I hope to read in the next issue some columns by Nick!

riseabovefanzine@gmail.com

Sailin' On # 2 – 48 pages/A4

(Turn The Screw, New Morality, The Miracle, Rise Above, Champion, Slapshot, Betray)

Wow! I've been missing out on a good zine. It's the second issue and I can't compare it to the first one since I have missed out on it, but this is really cool. Well, it covers mostly European HC scene, which is always good and you can read interviews with some new bands. I really like the idea of researching for the interviews with i.e. Betray and tracking all the members down to interview them. It came out interesting and has lots of stories! There are a few profiles of European record labels as well. Anyway, pick it up! I would really like to read some stuff by Nico who does the zine. That would be a great addition. Still, a very good thing!

www.sailin-on.com

Things We Say # 2— 32 pages/A4

(+ a tape with TFS, Triple Threat..)

(Damage Control, Fired Up, LOJ, Triple Threat...)

Once again I have not seen the first issue but I must admit that Things We Say looks really good. Layout is done on a computer, but there are lots of ideas so it's not boring or too "clean". The interviews are good, and especially it was very cool to read something from Fired Up. Apart from this there are pages with pictures of older or classic bands. There

is also a youth crew report that is based on a famous NY crew picture. Zine that's definitely worth of your time and interest.

www.thingswesay.de

Voice Of A Generation # 1 – 28 pages/A4 (+ Birds Of A Feather EP)
(The Defense, Birds Of A Feather, columns, reviews, photos...)

I don't think this needs any introduction. If you have not heard of this zine yet, please check the interview with Peter from Crucial Response Records. The editors not only have been involved in the scene for a long time, but they are still around and try to promote what matters to them the most in Hard Core. You can read about it in their columns that are interesting and should give everyone an idea what this zine is about. Their reviews also clearly state what they like and what they don't. People involved in Voice Of A Generation zine as well as Birds Of A Feather are over 30 years old, still Edge and caring about this community. *"The hardcore scene nowadays is more concerned with records and band shirts than a message. It's hard to break a circle. But if enough people start to think again I'm sure we can make a change."* Highly recommended, no doubt about it!

www.crucialresponse.de

Wake Up And Live # 6 – 36 pages/A4

(Insted, A Step Apart, Betrayed, I Object, Soulfire, reviews, tour report, columns...)

Holy shit! The layout totally killed me. Cut'n'paste style but I think lots of thought and time went into it, as everything is arranged perfectly. I'm really impressed! The content is awesome having good interviews as well as interesting columns that will give you some stuff to think about. I like the fact that this zine keeps it diverse. I just can't believe again, I have missed all the past issues of Wake Up And Live and am just catching up now. Well time to really Wake Up haha! This is a zine to get to know and to support with all your heart as Diogo supports your scene with all his heart and I was sorry to read that next issue might be the last one. Crucial zine that definitely makes a difference.

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affirmation



he likes off his chest. Also sometimes if I've had a shitty day or something its great to be able to go to a show or even practice and just play and forget about other stuff that may happen in general day to day life.

I've heard that you don't get to play that many shows due to other responsibilities you have, so you are happy in general with the way band works? Do you feel satisfied with the things you have achieved so far?

Dave: So far in the bands existence, we haven't played out as much as we would have probably liked, to date we've played less than 20 shows. We didn't actually start playing out until late '04 anyway because of not having a full line till that time. Then due to several reasons, 2005 turned out to be a busy year for some of us away from the band as well.

OK, let's start traditionally... Could you tell me please what made you start Affirmation, who is involved and how much is this band important for you as a way to express yourselves?

Dave: OK, well Affirmation formed officially at the end of 2003, by myself (Dave), Gaz and Dex. The 3 of us had previously been involved in bands together during the mid to late 90's, and after a year or so break decided to have a go at doing something new. We wrote and recorded a bunch of songs (which ended up on the Demo) and then hunted around for a permanent Bass player. Luke joined shortly after we put the demo out.

I think as far as expressing ourselves, doing the band means we can write and play music which is important to us - traditional, fast, energetic hardcore influenced by such bands as Turning Point, Chain, Insted etc, and also Gaz gets to write lyrics to get whatever shit

Dave: We had got a recording session planned, originally we were going to try and do 3 songs for a split '71 and a couple more if time allowed, however that never materialized and we managed to record 6 songs. Pete and Katie had come down to help with back-ups on the recording and they expressed an interest in releasing a CD after hearing the songs.

We already knew the guys a little from shows and I was impressed with the job they had done previously with their zine and everything. We are happy to be on the label and with the job they have done with putting out the CD.

What would you say was the biggest change in your life that you made yourself based on the conscious choice? And why?

Dave: For myself I would say becoming vegetarian in 1998. At first I wasn't sure if it was for me and just thought I'd give it a try. I had been thinking a lot about the lyrics to the song 'Feel their pain' by

"chipping away at the foundations of what we'd built and thrown away so easily with all our time it's not as though as we can truly say that we tried, another chance to turn your back walk away and hide what has been denied lost through time just empty words and lies this pain inside words can not express this pain inside time we spent i know i'll never forget still filled with regret can't stop this pain inside"

Affirmation "What Happens Now"

Insted so I went out and got some veggie products, food and cookbooks etc. Nearly 8 years later and I'm glad I stuck with it.

"I struggle with my own conscience caught out by my own misuse of trust" that's very honest of you to admit. Do you often find yourselves caught up in this situation?

Gaz: Quiet a few of the demo lyrics came from when I first got introduced into hardcore. Having so many friends that believed the same things, and then as time went on people moved away. Being quite a trusting person it hurt and I wrote this stuff down not just about what friends had done but also about my own shortcomings.

All pictures on these pages courtesy of Affirmation and their friends. Thank you! R.

How would you describe love/hate, happiness/sadness based on your own experiences? Do you struggle a lot with these mixed emotions and feelings?

Gaz: I took a lot of emotion from the fact my parents got divorced, it was an unhappy time so I put a lot of that into the songs. It was a way to get all the feelings out it made it easier to deal with instead of just getting angry about it. I think we deal with these feelings and emotions everyday of your life it just depends how you deal with things writing this stuff down made it easier for me.

What are your future plans and goals? Are you considering writing the follow up to "Never forget" anytime soon?

Dave: Future plans would be to play out as much as we can over 2006, maybe write some new material and see what happens from there.

So maybe to finish with could you tell me how did you come up with the name Affirmation? Does it have any special meaning for you?

Gaz: We messed around with ideas for names for awhile nothing stuck, I think I came across it in a book like the name suggested to the rest of the guys and there you have it. There's no special meaning as such it just seemed to work.

Thanks a lot for your time and doing this interview! Do you wish to add something more?

Dave: Thanks for the interview, thanks to Pete and Katie for the work they have done with courage to care and Affirmation, check out our CD and get in touch at affirmationcore@hotmail.com.



Do you have courage to care? Well, a couple of people from north of England have, and they express it with records they release as well as printing a fanzine and running a distro. I think next to Dead & Gone, Courage To Care is the strongest and most consistent record label from that region. So far they have released 5 records and 6 issues of their fan zine that's being printed under the same name. Pete, who does CTC together with Katie, was involved in the band 50 On Red and after their last year's break up he is fronting Downfall, who are just about to release their demo as this is being typed up!

There is online CTC store where you can get their releases as well as lots of other Hard Core records and zines!



CTC #1
WHAT HOPE REMAINS
"S/T"
Ep



CTC #2
FACE UP
"S/T"
Ep



CTC #3
FACE DEFEAT
"S/T"
Ep



CTC #4
TURN COLD
"S/T"
Ep



CTC #5
AFFIRMATION
"NEVER FORGET"
CD

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"I feel like I have said this a million times before, but I'll say it again. Start a band or do a zine, take some photos at shows, do some artwork, book a show, help out in some way because I don't believe that there are people out there incapable of doing a least on of those things."

Katiexxx
Courage To Care # 6



Turn Cold Pic: CTC

THE MUSIC! THE MESSAGE?

XXX

The music and the message - old, used, abused and at times underappreciated words. Years back, my friend had this saying that "Hard Core is like a phone and it's purpose is communication with others. Therefore just like you would not want to waste time talking about a phone and i.e. what color it has, but try to communicate something with another person when making a phone call, you should not be wasting time talking about how cool Hard Core is, but try to get some kind of more important message across." I can't help thinking how accurate this comparison is and most of the times I have tried to focus on communicating different emotions and opinions rather than limiting it to the lame descriptions of what my Hard Core is and how it may be better than yours. I think that this is a place with such a huge potential, but it feels like many times we choose to talk about how cool this "phone" is rather than what we can spread around by using it, how it can help us to challenge, express and develop ourselves.

I can't help also thinking how the place of lyrics in today's scene has changed. I don't know if it's for better or worse, but I feel like the lyrics could not even exist anymore and nobody would even notice. It does not really feel like we care anymore for what the band has to say, bands don't really care to say anything that would get them out of the safe boundaries of "Fuck you, you fucking fuck!". Yes, it does express something, but my feeling is that it became a cheap and easy to use cliché, that most of the time is not even sincere. It's just the safest way for the band to start today and be accepted or thought of as cool. Also, I have found myself visiting sites where I could find links to the bands merchandise store or read about their sponsors, but hardly ever there was anything about their message, not even mentioning section with lyrics. Well, how many times have you seen lyrics on the site?...

I recall middle 90s where a number of bands would get heavily criticized for having lyrics expressing some aggressive attitudes regarding animal exploitation or environmental issues. Today Hard Core band can openly sing that they wish someone to be beaten up, hurt or even dead

just because they got in their way with some personal stuff or stepped on their toes. Nobody even says a word that this is violent or promotes aggression. As long as it is not challenging in any way or it's not making anybody uncomfortable with their own lives - it's alright.

Yes, Hard Core is angry and may become aggressive. I understand that and for most part can relate to it. One of the first zines I read had an interview where I read that if you are in Hard Core then you are angry and if you say otherwise you are a liar. Maybe your father was beating you up or your mother left you, but something had happened that made you feel this way and Hard Core most likely helps you to get it out. And that couldn't be truer. There are lots of reasons for being angry, and for me Hard Core is the best way to express it. But I have never felt left alone with this feeling. There were always words of encouragement and support to deal with these emotions. Bands lyrics have been like a one ongoing expression and sharing about life that would be opening my eyes to many new things, challenging some old ways that I was taught and supporting me in choices that I was about to make.

Of course the purpose of these words is not to dictate anybody what they should write about. It's such a huge place for anybody to feel free to express anything they wish. There is ton of great stuff going on anyways and you can find lots of inspiring records. Sometimes it just feels like there is not much of a challenge or actual care for anything but our own well-being and smashing faces of those that dare to question our self-righteousness. People try so hard to bring back the spirit of Old School, but sometimes I feel like we bring back only what's convenient for us. Hoods, crews, fights and pride are more than welcome. Human honesty, facing own faults, progressing in our lives and struggle for a better world sound too dangerous. It's not about what's right and what's wrong or just plain complaining about something, it's about the potential that's out there and what more can be offered. I think it's worth to make an effort...R

XXX

"stick to the boundaries, made it too safe, deny my freedom, destroys the meaning.
keep parroting the part line, your empty slogans will never change a thing.
how can I kill what was never alive? the last days of titanic." The Judas Factor

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BEYOND

All pictures on this page courtesy of awesome
Robbie Redcheeks and they were taken during
Beyond's reunion show in
Washington DC / January 2006.



I have never agreed with this opinion that if you sound metal you can't be Hard Core. Sunrise for me are more Hard Core than one could imagine. They have been playing for over a decade, and remain faithful and supportive to their roots, even though the sound changes. They have firmly established foundation, but are open to listen to others and talk about what's important to them. They are committed and try to live by their words. They have been here for a long time spreading their message of taking your life back and living in a more caring way. Sunrise is important and I'm glad to have them in this issue. Unfortunately the band decided to call it quits. This is a very sad news for lots of kids that grew up listening to their music. I have interviewed Pat, who sings for the band and is one of the founding members. Read on! R.

SUNRISE

1994—2006

“...we got our records done, we played shows and tours and got our thing, we communicated with people and all in all ~ we could do something we loved.”

I remember interviewing you almost 10 years ago now, when Sunrise was getting ready to record the first demo tape. I have respected you a lot for being around and sticking to your guns, even though the band went through many changes. Recently you have announced that you are going to end things and finish playing as Sunrise. What would you say were the most significant and memorable moments in band's history?

Meeting people and finding out we are not in *this* alone. Doing something real and what's really ours. Doing things together. Learning through travelling and learning ourselves better. I was always surrounded by people who totally didn't have a clue what I was all about and who mainly didn't care bout anything and finally I found my environment where I could feel comfortable with. As time went by and more people got to know Sunrise more people started to come to our shows, mosh, dive and sing along. This is really unforgettable experience. People sang along cuz they shared the meaning behind the lyrics. People had fun hence they stage dove. We got some shitty shows, but most of them were really good feedback-wise and I will always remember all of us sweating and screaming our hearts out. We were also lucky enough to hear some words of support and appreciation, either directly from people or via mail. It was truly amazing. Being part of the community like hardcore scene was pretty much exciting itself. Being part of the network and working together, you know, playing shows, being interviewed, reviewed and so on. Soon after we started with Sunrise I started to work and live on my own and when most of my peers got old, jaded and tired way too early, I still felt like teenager. Actually I still do. I remember me and our original bassist being weirdoes in high school, you know – “these dudes neither drink nor eat meat blah blah blah” but we simply didn't care. When most of my so called colleagues were focused on their careers and trying to fit in into their surroundings I have been strengthening my bonds with my friends and was busy with doing my band. All of us worked and we had to face a lot of shit every day but we got our records done, we played shows and tours and got our thing, we communicated with people and all in all - we could do something we loved.

I guess the main question right now what are the reasons behind your decision about splitting up? What are you going to miss the most about Sunrise? Do you think your lives will change a big deal since you dedicated so much time to this band?

Well, I don't think my life has changed really since Sunrise called it quits. It occupied every day of my life but was part of other things I am associated with, so I don't feel like I would miss something really. Not playing in Sunrise doesn't mean I won't see these people I have been seeing for ages every once in a while. The band is over, as we didn't want to carry it on. It was good moment definitely to called it a day, as we were really at our peak and I am afraid we couldn't go any further due to some of ours lives decisions and getting burned out of the others. The band is what it is – a band, which means common effort of group of people and when some of them are psyched and the other unmotivated it is never going to work out in a long run. And it was what happened to Sunrise lately. Since we were back from the tour it slowed down and soon it would fade away I guess, so it was much better and painful to end it up before it would make us puke, keeping the good memories. In my case, it worked pretty well, I am happy with things we've done and it felt good that Sunrise is gone. There were moments in the past that when we would split up I would probably didn't know what to do with myself, I was so much attached to the band and so identified with it I couldn't stand the void. But as I said, it was a perfect time and instead of grief I feel relief and satisfaction.

I'd like to still go back and talk about your records...In your lyrics you have used a number of times comparisons of people's lives to the state of unconsciousness, sleepwalking, coma etc. Could you tell something more about how did this come about and what do you think can awake people from this kind of apathetic state?



Picture:
Patrycja Gagan

All pictures that appear on these Sunrise pages were taken by Patrycja Gagan and used with her kind permission. Please check her website for lots of awesome pictures ranging from live shots to portraits.

You can check out her work at:
www.patrycjagagan.prv.pl

Well, that's the way I started to see people live their lives. It was when I started living on my own. When you move out of your parent's place and disconnect from their pockets you see things in a bit different way than when you were careless high school kid with his only concern about going to a show or getting this cool fanzine you've been already waiting for over the week. This is when most of the people change their lives totally, turn them upside down. When I started to work and pay the bills and let 9 hours of my life be stolen from Monday to Friday I wasn't like "wow, this is the shit!", I didn't feel like switchin my brain off and forget all these lyrics I knew by heart and vows I made to myself subconsciously. There are certain things I simply despise and I don't want to turn my life into a nightmare. I needed money to support myself but never ever for a single moment of my life I felt close to the world of "them". The more I had to do with so called 'adult life' I felt I didn't belong to this world. And I don't mean being a kid in a way that you are irresponsible and would like your mum to cook your soup. It was the way that made people change so fast made me terrified. Once bright and positive people were turning into zombies who openly said they hated their lives but on the other hand they felt it was the only way it could be. It was this book "Ishmael" I read back then, well, we all read this book like crazy and gave to everybody on their birthdays, I was like "read this book and you would never be the same". I liked the idea of Quinn there: most people feel that something is wrong with this world, that they're being deceived, fucked big time but they don't have the proof really... Everybody assures them, that's the way it is, wake up, go to work, have a fast food lunch, work hard, back home, eat dinner, watch TV, go to sleep, work as hard so you could save some money and once a year go for a vacation to recharge your batteries to work harder once you are back. Is this a joke or what? Am I supposed to like it? This is like sleepwalking, you can walk but for what? You walk but you don't even know where you are heading to. Waking up is mostly painful and traumatic when you realize that you wasted few years of your life but I guess it's better late than never. I can't remember how many times I heard people complaining about this or that but when you ask they why are they do so they would be like "Because I have to do it, everybody does". It only fuels my anger and discontent to this world and my will to live the life I want to live.

We started this band to bridge with people who feel the same to make them feel there're more freaks like them out there and to wake the others up. Some people are so much suppressed



they don't have guts to change their lives for the better. Who is not afraid of rejection. This world is a popularity contest and everyday is getting points so it is really hard to let go the status you already gained. Crazy, isn't it?

On your last release you have quoted Gandhi saying "You must be the change you wish to see in the world"... What kind of change would you like to see happening in the world and how does it manifest in your own lives?

People got separated and are like isles, drifting around each other. I think that's the main problem of this world and the main reason why we have so much violence, be it everyday street violence or worldwide wars. We are disconnected from each other and from anything else, we are not against anything really as we don't care. And we don't care because we don't see any interest in caring. *Should I really care?, That's not my business* and so on, that's the mentality of mankind. We are *evolving consumers*, not living creatures. Being told that we should collect as many goodies as possible (or money at the account) instead of just **experiencing** life, we simply do it. There is no much passion left around in this world, people who are passionate about their lives shine like diamonds among others. It makes me feel so good to meet such people who do have lives and instead of talking about their jobs, being promoted, new car or fuck only knows what, they have beautiful lives I could listen about for ages. But most of the people are not even able to talk about anything more indepth, just stupid small talks. Fuck that.

I look around and I don't see so much sense of community, there is enough **envy** and **hostility** instead. **This is what killing us.** We cannot go along with each other, because of our egos and lack of ability to forgive. That's why we are so easy to be fucked. Divide and conquer politics goes really deep into the very single piece of ourselves.

The change I would love to see happening is cutting this shit I was talking about off. We should forget about all these petty problems, stupid shit and see ourselves more as people we could do things together not potential enemies. I am not talking about building a mass hippie commune. We just should look at ourselves from different point and have a better sense of empathy.

I can only speak for myself. I just try not to be prejudiced against anybody as I used to be, I feel much better because of this. I think I finally understand that we are all so different and I really dig it. I know that together we can do much more instead of losing time proving who's right and who's wrong. I used to waste a good doze of time proving how righteous I am and to prove my opponents wrong. I am more interested into just having good life and live with good people. Once you built something positive, you will attract more people, you can create something with a

Born Free Die Free

"You let them rape your soul, put the loop on your neck.

They took it all and gave nothing back. They made you feel guilty.

They made you feel proud. Saying you're pure or filthy right to your face and loud.

Do you think you can earn to be saved? Would you like to live the life you deserve? Are you happy with being their slave? Wanna set yourself free or end up in a grave? You let them rape your soul, put the loop on your neck. As life takes its toll you're slowly getting wrecked. You pretend to smile. Choked under the surface. Born free,

Shackled you'll die caught up in a rat race. Do you think you can earn to be saved? Would you like to live the life you deserve? Are you happy with being their slave? Set yourself free or end up in a grave and if you died tomorrow, what would you do today? Would you still serve this giant with the feet made of clay? Would you take your chance to taste the real life?

Or would you spend this very last day to get the best quality last rites? Born free, die free."

Escape Failure

"I let myself think that things are black and white. Was led astray corrupted by my ego and pride. I let myself be fed on lies and be deceived. I was the stereotype I hated to believe. I escaped failure. Hardships I endure. I let the past go? Am I telling you something you don't already know? Escape failure. Escape failure. Make it through? Am I in any way different from you? I wanna say fuck your popularity contest. Strike me off, count me out, I won't be next. This game you played, all of you failed. I won't look up to the heroes you bred to be worshipped and praised."

good foundation. You won't create anything good based on envy, frustration or hatred, at least it won't last long. Forget about it. What goes around comes around, no shit.

What would you say has been the biggest compromise for you in making decisions that not necessarily go together with what your heart tells you? Do you feel like you have to "sell out" a lot in order to live in this society?

I feel like I sleep with my enemy a lot. I am part of the machine, as I need money to support myself and that's why I spend most of my day somewhere I don't belong really. But at least I recognize what I am and what I want to be. Sometimes it's hard to realize that life just passes like sand through hands (still marked!) and I don't have enough time for myself to work on things I would like to do. That's my compromise that I make to be able to support my plans. And I don't feel depressed about that. It's still much better than not having life at all. As long as I have my beliefs and hope, step-by-step I will get closer to my destination.

Seriously, I shouldn't complaint really about my life and I don't. I work because I need money for things I love. It's not the other way. You could say that all of the things I am involved with are just escape from everyday life to get some relief but the thing is that this is the real world and real life and what I do everyday is like defending my territory by any means necessary. And I don't feel I sell out at all. Selling out would be denying what you believe not doing these things against your will. Selling out is turning into a dick who doesn't care. You can probably write a book bout how much I suck but the latter accusation would be kind of exaggeration, haha.

So you have just come back from your tour with Undying. How important was this experience for you as the band and on the individual level? What did you learn during those 3 weeks?

The tour was great. Undying peeps were awesome, we had lots of fun and good laugh. Really good guys. I love traveling and it is indeed the time when you can learn a lot. You learn bout yourself and the others. You learn a lot of patience and how to cooperate and do things together and be just and equal in things you get from life. Simple things like carrying the shit, doing merch, eating, sleeping, who sits where in the van, stupid shit like that makes your day or turns you feeling down. And the best is that you don't really know what to expect from the next day, who will you meet and how the show is going to be. I also learnt that peeing into the bottle is not that easy as it seems.

You have gotten quite a lot of response from the, let's say, strictly metal scene. What kind of feedback did you get? Was it important for you to kind of go across the different underground scenes in order to reach more people with your message?



For a HC band it is quite a lot I guess. It is mostly concerned with our music and our message are mostly kind of interesting but nobody made really fun of us or something. It is just pretty uncommon. We didn't really push it hard to be a part of metal scene, if it happens that's cool, as being a band rooted in HC we want everybody to listen to our shit. We have our stand but our intentions has never been to sing about straight edge for straight edge kids or anything like this. I also have nothing against people who just like our music, that's cool with me. Last year we played 10 shows for more metal oriented crowd, which was kind of cool. Sometimes 90% of the crowd were metalheads which was kind of weird but response was good. We also had some good reviews, interviews and I could say that we were quite recognizable among metalheads. Anyway, the vibe and atmosphere of HC gig couldn't be beaten, forget about it!

As we speak a new year begins and everyone tends to reflect on the previous 12 months... What was the most beautiful/the most shocking thing(s) that caught your attention in 2005?

A friend of mine texted me to let me know that there's a chance that there could be new season of the mighty Twin Peaks! I was psyched big time to find it out, I still really am. Hey Mark Frost, if you read this neat fanzine – do it, I insist! Last year was pretty cool. Hectic as always but I had a chance to visit so many nice places (like beloved Portugal) and met up with some cool people, watched bunch of cool shows and had a good time. Probably I should start bitching about election in Poland and how terrifying was to see the how right wing took the power over but I won't. Well, they don't make any difference, they speak worse bullshit indeed but they suck not much more than the ones before them.



Picture:
Patrycja Gagan

So what are your hopes and thoughts right now about your future as far as playing music, being active etc.? Is there much of a confusion or uncertainty?

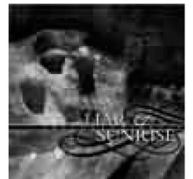
Frankly speaking I can't see myself less busy than I was when Sunrise was around. Well formally it is around another month until we will be disbanded after our last show on April 23rd. I work a lot, I book shows here in Warsaw, I live with my girlfriend, I hang out with my friends and well... we already rehearse with our new band. There's no confusion at all, I am totally sure that calling it quits was a good decision made in the best time. No sour taste in my mouth, no crying over spilled milk, no hard feelings. There is a couple of things to do just to close the chapter and move forward.

Thank you so much for the interview and all you did with Sunrise...

No, I thank you! Fanzines like yours make my heart pumping blood faster. It has the vibe and you have the heart. Dude, both of these things are hard to find nowadays. Even in the HC scene. I am pretty happy that I could speak out for Stop, Look and Listen. Keep it up. And to all of you – never lose heart.



SUNRISE



.....NEVER LOSE HEART

XXX

I don't think there are many other feelings that can be compared to the one of doing something by yourself, giving it a lot of thought or just creating it suddenly under the influence of specific moment, working on it, developing the idea and then eventually sharing it with others often receiving feedback. It's a process like any other, but the way it's presented and the results of it may make it different. We type up and design pages that make up zines, fold innumerable covers and put them with vinyls, we spend hours writing and rehearsing songs just to get it right... all for the sake of being creative, expressing ourselves and sharing it with one another. In my experience it's also about having control, being inspirational, trying to make a change and be supportive. Is this what Doing It Yourself means to you?

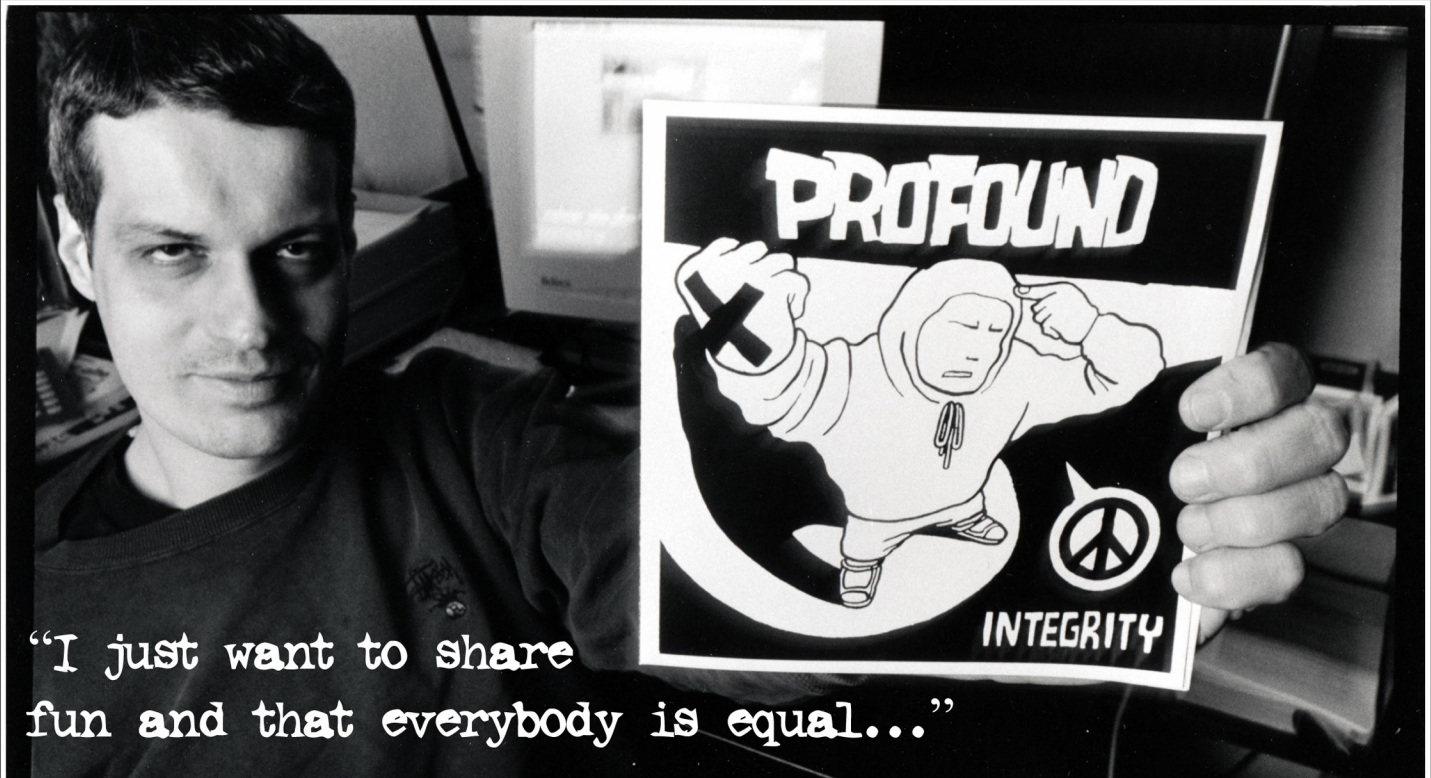
So how much of what we really do is from ourselves and based on mutual respect and understanding? It's kind of disappointing when trust is being replaced by signatures on a piece of paper, that can later be used to resolve all misunderstandings. It's also disappointing when you can not talk to those you just listened to because they are the band and you are the audience and you will sooner bump into the bouncers rather than a band. It's disappointing when the only way to secure sales is by buying a few seconds of advertisement on the screen... And it's sad when you are being ignored unless your expression is wrapped up in the colorful and attractive packaging.

But hey, first and foremost there is this number of committed people all over the world that will do something positive out of dedication and care. People that communicate and share opinions, ideas and their concerns without looking for profits. Their words, their music and their attitude mean more than what's just on the outside. The motivation comes from the heart and most of the time is not necessarily paying off in a material sense, but personal satisfaction and value of gained experiences can be enormous. Of course you meet different people and get screwed over at times, but to all those sincere and dedicated I thank for inspiration and keeping this place alive.

R.

XXX





"I just want to share fun and that everybody is equal..."

CRUCIAL X RESPONSE X RECORDS

Maybe it's the fact that one of the first vinyl records I ever could afford and purchased was released by Crucial Response, or the fact that there are so many good bands on this label, but I have always liked CxR and decided that it was a time for me to interview Peter. The timing couldn't be better. The label currently has released a few very good records as well as a much anticipated fan zine called "A Voice Of Generation". This latest project should be considered a classic very soon and I'm happy to hear that the new issue is being planned. I'm also happy that this label is still around and survived being loyal to it's principals. I think that's something for all of us to respect and admire.

I would like to thank Peter for his time and doing this interview. It was done via magical, virtual messenger and we started late at night and finished about 3 o'clock in the morning. I owe huge thanks to him for staying awake haha and having the energy to answer my questions.

I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did!

R.

Maybe to start with tell me what was the most difficult/the most inspiring thing that happened in your life in recent weeks...

Recently, that's a good one... Actually the most inspiring thing was working on the Voice Of A Generation fanzine with my old friend Arne Haabeth. We had so much fun. We were dwelling in the past when we put the zine together. It was for me really inspiring.

Well, the most difficult one... Putting the zine together. Both of us have high standards and it was challenging. Plus it took longer than we thought. People already send cash and it got a pain dealing with it. Of course it is understandable. You want to get your zine as fast as possible.

Could you tell me more about the idea behind the zine and why did you decide not to charge a fixed price for it but accept donations? That's very punk I think...

Of course it is! Minor Threat is punk, right?!

More than anything else probably, Dischord as a label and attitude is one of the most punk things around in my opinion...

Dischord is one of the most inspiring things in punk rock. Till today! They still hold true to their initial ideas. I'm not too keen on the music they put out the last couple of years, but the ideals are still authentic and honest! Well the idea of the donation: People should realize the initial idea of hardcore / punk and give it a bit more thought. It's more than music (referring to Verbal Assault) It was really interesting how people reacted. Some got the idea pretty quickly, they thought it's cool. While others were really confused about it. They asked for a fix price.

Are you trying to promote certain kind of attitude in the punk/hardcore scene with your zine? What are those initial ideas of hc/punk you mentioned earlier?

Yes, start to think again and show respect to other people and ideas! The initial idea was when hardcore got really underground in the early eighties is that you can do everything yourself, no matter what. Nowadays hardcore labels are operating like major labels. It's hilarious. I just want to share fun and that everybody is equal. There are so many things you can rebel against. In the early eighties we had Reagan, now we have Bush. What's the difference?!

We don't care? Or we care but it does not sell as good as the stuff that's not socially involved?

Let's put it that way: hardcore became an old thing and it's time question certain things again like in the eighties.

So do you think it is possible to get to the bigger crowd with our message without operating in a slightly more major labels way?

Yes, I think it's possible. Of course not with a label like Crucial Response which is really small. But labels like Dischord have a lot of power. For example the Nike thing... The company was forced to take back the campaign.

Yeah, I thought that it was really powerful if Nike had to take a notice of Dischord and all the people that showed support by writing complaints and letters....

I think it's cool. I wouldn't condemn bands switching to major labels per se but the thing about hardcore is to go up to bands before and after a show. There're no barriers here and people should realize these things again.

Would you be disappointed if any of bands from CxR went to the major label if they were offered a contract?

It just depends but that's a difficult question. I just want to support the initial idea of hardcore. I grew up with all these ideals. I love labels like X-Claim, Dischord, Touch & Go. They showed it's possible to have an impact on people. You can run a show by yourself, even you can create your press, record label...

So is this how Crucial Response started? Let's go back to 1989 and tell me how the idea began, what were your plans and your motivations....

Well, it started with my friend Andreas Grüter and Georg Opora. Both helped me with the label in the beginning. The plan was to create a hardcore label. We all were into the idea of pushing the idea of straight edge and putting a message across. We just felt it's possible to have a label like Dischord with a total integrity (not that I think you can compare Crucial Response with a label like Dischord). But we got a lot of inspiration from a label like Dischord. Youth Of Today came over in early 89 and that was of course the extra push. Youth Of Today was amazing, one of the best bands I ever saw. We just wanted to give the scene a positive message! At most of the shows we had conflicts with drunken punks who had a problem when we X'ed up at shows.

Did you feel like there was a need for a strictly SxE label? Were there any other SxE labels around that you got support and advice from?

Well, that was the plan in the beginning. We put out most bands who were into the straight edge message. We haven't gotten too much advice from people or labels directly. We thought if they can do it, we can do it as well. I found two articles in fanzines how to press records and that's how it started. Revelation Records was a major influence as well. We just got inspired by those examples. And hey, if they can do it we can do it as well.

Could you tell me please what were the first 5 CxY releases? Is there any reason why they are not included in the discography that's on your site?

Because I started Anti-Schlelski Records in 87 and in 89 I switched the name to Crucial Response. I still want to add those releases to the discography on the website. The first press of the *Profound 7"* was released under Anti-Schelski, the other pressings of the *Profound* were put out under Crucial Response when I switched the name.

So basically there were SxE bands around in Germany/Holland but there was no SxE label that would release their music ?

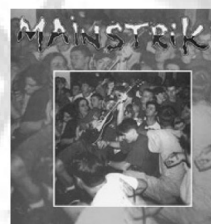
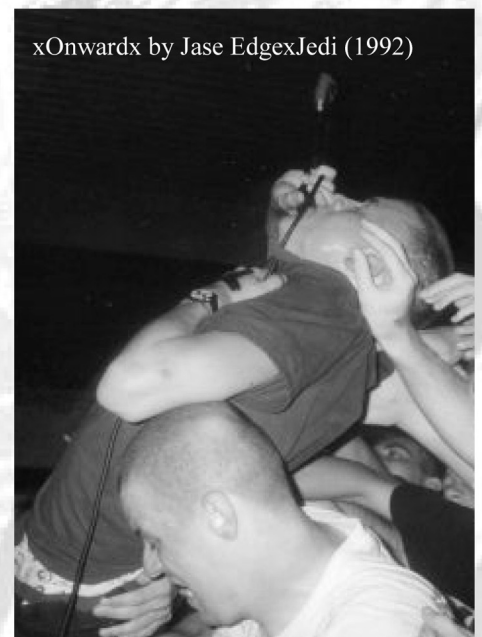
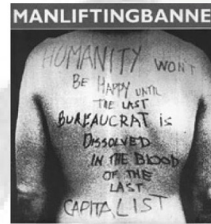
In the beginning not too many. *Profound* was around, *Betray* started pretty soon after. The scene changed a lot esp. when *Youth Of Today* came over. In our area we started with like 3 people and short after that more and more people became straight edge. In Holland you had *Lärm*, they were the first straight edge band. They broke up around 88 I think. But straight edge got pretty much popular after *Youth Of Today* came over.

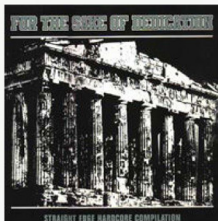
Socialism became a pretty big part of the European SxE scene in early 90tees. How kids got involved in it and introduced these left wing ideas into the movement?

Because *ManLiftingBanner* was a pretty influential band (two people from *MLB* played in *Lärm* before). In '89 you had the wall coming down and you could read in every newspaper the downfall of Socialism. Like with every young kids they questioned those things and esp. in the hardcore scene. Band like *Lärm*, *Seein' Red* and *ManLiftingBanner* made people more aware of those things. I think that's why it became an issue in the early nineties. *Feeding the Fire* was also a big part of it and somewhat *Spawn*. It just evolved.

Did your label get any negative feedback after releasing and supporting bands like Man Lifting Banner that had strong socialist/communist message?

The band and I got some negative feedback here and there. *X-Mist Records* (a German label)





was made such a big issue about, also Zap magazine gave us some shit. X-Mist made up fliers to spread at shows.

To boycott CxR or MLB?

Well, they gave us some shit, not really boycott but it was pretty tough. We got into some arguments at shows but then it helped to establish a band like ManLiftingBanner. They got their message around.

Did/do you yourself support socialists or any other political group?

I was never part of a party but I was supporting "Bund Sozialister Arbeiter". I was going to their meetings and was selling their newspaper. A friend of mine got really heavy into it for a while.

Do you miss those times and the period when the label was just picking up? What was the best about those years?

It depends. Things were much easier and fun. You had to do a lot more grassroots work to start a label. Nowadays with the internet it seems much easier to get a band name around when it's hyped up on message boards.

Does it bother you that people may judge or see your label as the one that promotes only the classic old school/Hard Core bands? Would you ever consider releasing a heavier sounding record with some i.e. metal influences?

Actually I did release much heavier bands the last couple of years. It evolved naturally with bands like No Denial, True Blue and Strike First. I just want to support bands whom I've been friends with. For example after Mainstrike Big started No Denial which had a lot more Cro-Mags influence in their music. But it doesn't bother me at all... Crucial Response will remain a hardcore label.

What is the most valuable thing you have learnt through your involvement in the hard core scene?

To question yourself and I learned a lot about who is your friend and who is not. For example doing the zine was also a challenge for myself in a lot of ways. Also as I referred already above: it's important to stick to your goals and put a message across. Also I'm learning a lot when things getting rougher. It's like a test but that is life in general... I guess.

Do you think of CxR as an important part of European SxE history? I personally really can't imagine European Hard Core scene being what it is, without Crucial Response Records...

Oh thanks. But European hardcore was around before Crucial Response. You had a lot of good bands like Negazione, Raw Power, Indegsti, Lärm, Heresy, Ripcord...

I meant more your influence in the 90es...

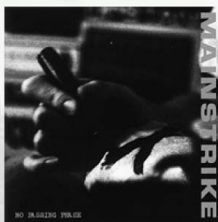
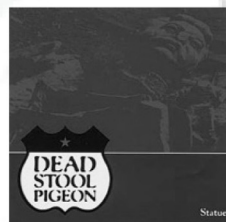
For me it is a privilege putting out bands. I am really thankful that I got the chance to release so many good bands. I have to thank the bands for the trust and friendship without them Crucial Response wouldn't exist.

Where would you like to see CxR going? Is it easy for you to have this friendship and trust with the new bands that are around (in order to keep releasing records) like you had with i.e. Mainstrike?

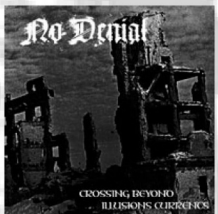
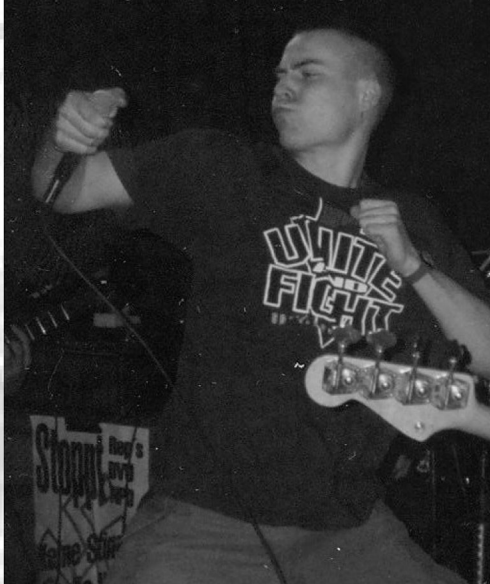
That's really hard actually and that's the reason I will release less and less bands. I think it's time to go back into the unknown. Today there are a lot of new labels that will carry the torch. As for Mainstrike I worked really close with them for more than 5 years. I think that's not possible anymore. It was a lot of fun.

What is your understanding of DIY and do you ever compromise it when working on running CxR or doing a zine?

Like I mentioned above, you can create your own scene apart from mainstream society and music. In that sense I haven't compromised at all. Puh, probably I made mistakes but I tried to stick to DIY ethics.



ManLiftingBanner by Jase EdgexJedi (1992)



“For me it is a privilege putting out bands. I am really thankful that I got the chance to release so many good bands.”

What are your most favorite hard core records (not necessarily released by CxR but other labels as well) and how did they change your life ?

"We are not in this alone" LP. When I heard this LP I became vegetarian.

SSD "The kids will have their say". You can run your own hardcore business.

MDC and Dead Kennedys just for being politically outspoken.

Also Lärm played an important role in my life because they spoke sincere about socialism. Lärm was the first European band who had an impact on me. Those guys were also doing Definite Choice fanzine which was really challenging and inspiring.

And AC/DC of course because they know how to rock!

HaHa definitely ! Can you imagine the day you stop releasing records and your life without running CxR?

Why not? But as long as friends asking me about putting out a record I will continue with it.

It's been such a big part of your life, that it would be a big change for you, don't you think?

I have a lot of other interest actually but I really love to run the label. For me it's a lot of fun. I used to get sick like 2 or 3 years ago but lately I have so much fun. Like I said doing the zine was challenging for myself and I feel really good about the Birds Of A Feather 7".

Do you hope to make a difference in the scene with A Voice Of Generation and hard core you write about in this zine?

No idea, we got some really good feedbacks so far. Hopefully we can do at least 3 or 4 issues. We have so much plans and ideas. For example in number 3 or 4 I want to have a 7" compilation coming with the zine. For number two, we will have planned another project 7" like in the first issue but it is still in the early stages.

So what would you say has been the most challenging for you personally when working on your zine?

Just to challenge myself!

And that's again the most punk thing you could do haha! Thank you so much for doing this interview ! I

think we have come to a full circle by starting this interview with talking about the zine and ending it with the zine as well....

You are welcome. Thanks for the interview. I have to thank, the interview was really inspiring and interesting!



CRUCIAL X RESPONSE X RECORDS

KAISERFFELD 98 46047 OBERHOUSEN GERMANY EUROPE

WWW.CRUCIALRESPONSE.DE

THE FIRST STEP

WHAT WE KNOW

CD/LP

SPRING 2006

**RIVALRY
RECORDS**

WWW.RIVALRYRECORDS.COM | PO BOX 5242 CONCORD, CA 94524 | DISTRIBUTED BY REVELATION DISTRIBUTION

It was around 1990 when I went to the first Punk show, of course after long hours of convincing my mother that I'll not get killed and finish homework before I leave. Upstairs, on the first floor, in the local ballroom building played a few local bands with kids going nuts. The equipment sucked, dudes managing vocal duties were struggling with microphones, screaming their guts off so people would be able to understand something. Still, that was a really awesome experience and from there it went really quickly. I got a number of tapes of bands from my area, and most of them really influenced me and the way I was beginning to look at the world. Those tapes were mostly recorded by bands in their basements or garages on a simple tape recorder sitting on the floor in the middle of their practice space. You can imagine that the quality wasn't... the best, shall we say? But still, those bands managed to create something special that I took into my life. I think we all have such recordings in our lives, that some would consider as boring or weak but we love to bits...no matter what anybody else says.

I would like to believe that among the stuff that you can read about on these pages and anywhere else, there are records that may cause in people who listen to them, strong emotions or even may become something of a big inspiration in their lives. These records may do it, or they may not... but I'm not going to criticize someone for what they are doing because they don't sound Core enough, they are not being hyped or nobody knows about them therefore it won't sell. I'm far from kissing up either and will point out my dislikes or if something strikes me in a negative way. But I'm just saying that everything honest and expressive has a potential to become an important record in somebody's life and therefore I try to appreciate everyone's effort.

Maybe I'm naïve enough to believe that for some kid in a small town who picks up a sincere and energetic record (even if not the best quality), this kid may have the best time ever and spend all the evenings listening to it, mixing excitement with inspiration. I know that this is possible, as once I was that kid and in many ways still hope that I am...R.

It's not my thing to contact labels and ask for promo materials. I review mostly stuff that I have bought myself in recent months, but there were also some records sent in. Thank you to everyone who mailed their stuff! If you come across this zine and would like to mail your releases you should know that I'm not the best at reviewing music haha. Also please do not send me any promotional copies or even worse, ask me for email address so your record company can send me your material in mp3 form with a request for pre-release review. I'm not really into it as well as I don't interview bands when label asks me to arrange it for promotional purposes. As crazy as it may sound these things has really been happening causing panic attacks in my little unprofessional world. All I'm interested in are music, lyrics and artwork on original copy of band's record. That's all I wanna write about. And if you can throw in a little note saying who, when and why then that would be awesome. Thanks!
R.

REVIEWS

MC/CD/EP/LP

Anchors Away – “Nuckin’ Futs” CD (Significant Records)

Dudes out of Florida! Before I have played the actual CD I had a closer look at the insert. Joking title, cool drawing on the cover presenting ocean, ships, pirates etc. This funny stuff maybe a bit misleading as Anchors Away plays some traditional Hard Core stuff with some pretty pissed off lyrics. Although nothing revolutionary, it's all very well arranged and played. Their songs have lots of interesting moments so it's not boring. As far as words they deal mostly with their disappointments, not listening to people's bullshit etc. If that's their first recording it's pretty well done.

www.significantrecords.com
anchorsawaypunk@hotmail.com

Blacklisted – “The Beat Goes On” LP (Reflections Records)

They were a strong band right from the start, or at least from when I heard their demo I thought they were really amazing. There is a natural progression throughout all their records that followed, including “The Beat Goes On” that is truly amazing. Starting with the first seconds of “Tourist” you know that Blacklisted play with a full force and expression. I think that the main message behind the this record is to live fully as everything constantly changes, people that were close are gone, there are lots of obstacles on the way but we should never stop and keep carrying on with our lives. Blacklisted is really one of these bands that have never disappointed me with any of their recordings and they always manage to create something interesting. I just regret I had not been able to get into their show and see how powerful this stuff comes out live.

www.blacklistedhardcore.com
www.deathwishinc.com
www.reflectionsrecords.com

Break It Up – “No Sides” LP (Dead & Gone Records)

This LP isn't the newest as it came out last year, but I need to mention it. This debut full length



Pic: Dead & Gone Records

from Break It Up had been really widely anticipated and it came out really good! There are some experienced members in the band's line up and you can hear that they know how to play their Hard Core and keep your attention all the way. The formula is straight forward: about 2 minute songs, nice guitar work with solos, some slower parts and back ups. That's the way it's suppose to be played and Break It Up has no problems with it, creating something interesting and their

own. If you haven't got it already, check it out! Like they say: quality Hard Core!

www.deadandgonerecordings.com
www.breakitup.tk

Chaos Days – Demo 2005 CD-R

Well, it's not like there is some kind of revival going on but in recent months I have come across a number of bands that play their Hard Core with melody. Here is another band that celebrates HC in the vein of Lifetime, early Saves The Days or Siren (especially vocals and remind me of this last one). Vocals are obviously more sung than screamed, and dude on microphone manages it very well getting help from back ups once in a while. Lyrics deal with a bunch of stuff starting from friendships, moving forward in life and finishing with reflections on religion. It's pretty cool! Chaos Days could be ruling your stereo.

www.myspace.com/chaosdays
chaos_days@hotmail.com

Dark Day Dungeon – “By Blood Undone” CD (Let It Burn Records)

This is something that I don't listen to everyday but like a lot every now and then. Very metallic, very heavy with some mosh parts and I guess Swedish bands would be an inspiration here. You can hear from the very beginning that these guys know exactly what they want to achieve and how to do it. The music and vocals are very well written and arranged. It's good to read lyrics that actually sound real and express more personal feelings of facing different painful situations, rather than some mysterious trips into the land of the guy with 666 and horns on his head. Oh, and art work was done by Dave Quiggle himself and looks pretty cool. If you like metallic sounds this is of a very high quality.

www.darkdaydungeon.com

www.letitburnrecords.com

Eye Of Judgment – “The War Has Begun” EP

(New Eden Records)

It'd good to see New Eden growing as a label and releasing more stuff. Eye Of Judgment impressed me with their demo so I was really looking forward to checking out their first release. And this stuff does not differ much as far as message that is still the same: humanity is like a sickness and will have to pay for its crimes. No doubt about it and the band expresses it very strongly. I may not agree with all the lyrics and what they represent, and I hope that their role is more of symbolic nature that is suppose to just open the eyes of those reading them. But the most important thing is that there are still people who deeply care for other suffering living beings, and try to do something about it. The amount of witnessed pain and injustice probably causes the most desperate emotions and Eye Of Judgment expresses it through their words and music. *“Try to silence their screams, but there will always be those who fight and are willing to give it all to secure the future of animal rights”*. Vegan Straight Edge is still alive and spreading the threatening ideas!

www.myspace.com/eyeoffjudgement

www.newedenrecords.com

Forced March – Six Songs Demo CD-R

That's not the most important thing but I think that this recording would sound whole lot better if guitar was recorded louder because it gets lost in the fury of their songs. Yes, these guys are angry and they express it in their heavy and crusty Core they play, and they do it pretty well. Lyrically it's about various social diseases and how to get your life back. Forced March supports DIY approach within the Hard Core Punk scene which is always good and also have an X in their address, so I assume they are SxE. This is a young band and has message they want to spread, I'm looking forward hearing recordings from some new sessions!

www.myspace.com/forcedxmarch

forcedmarch@hotmail.com

Hands Down Now – Demo 2005 Tape (Crucial Attack)

Fast and passionate Hard Core from the Netherlands!

They really have a lot of great stuff going on there. Hands Down Now are I think relatively new band, but play very good Hard Core with cool lyrics written from more personal perspective, but describing life and what we are being faced with every day. Musically it's fast and straight forward, something probably along the lines of Floorpunch, but once again don't trust my compressions and check them out for yourself! These 6 songs make me want more which means this demo has done it's job and it's time to record some more!

www.myspace.com/hdownnow

You Choke – S/T CD (One Percent Records)

This band started from the ashes of Holding On, which may be useful information if you had known them. Well, some of the lyrics are not my cup of tea, but overall this is really good! Music is grabbing attention: pretty heavy but fast, some breakdowns and guitar solos that rip through songs. You can hear that these dudes know how to play their Hard Core and do it well not letting you get bored when listening to their debut CD. *“God save our sons and daughters as we lead them to the slaughter. Yellow ribbons and parades, hide the caskets draped with flags, still this won't be won”*. There is some darker feeling to this stuff that I can't explain... Maybe it's this art work together with metallic riffs on this material, I don't know. But this certainly adds flavor to Hope You Choke!

www.myspace.com/hopeyouchokeempls

www.onepercentrecords.com

Invade – Demo 2006 CD

“In the center of all that is grey and unsure, confused and mislead – I'm just another man with another set of ideas and a pen in hand”. When someone writes such fucking good lyrics how can you not become interested? I came across Invade following a link on one of the message boards and when I finally checked their profile I was seriously impressed. They play some really heavy Hard Core with metal influences, with very intelligent and politically/socially charged lyrics. Music is well arranged and there are melodies and other elements that make their songs interesting. I really love the way lyrics are written, the style is cool and they will give you plenty to think about. They must be mostly inspired by living in such a country like the US where lies and hatred wrapped in patriotism and religion are being shoved in your face every day. Also they are sending their record for donations or even free since the band has been formed to spread music and ideas, not to make money. If you are looking for some new bands that care a great deal for the world they live in, they desire change and want to be sincere about what are they doing – I strongly recommend you give Invade a chance! *“I can only promise to be human and try my best to be aware”*. Next issue, expect interview with Invade!

www.myspace.com/invade

invadehc@gmail.com

I Stand Alone-Demo CD-R

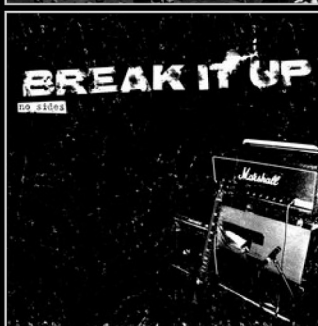
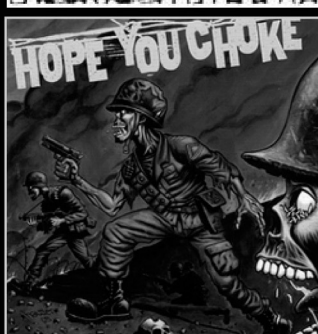
X above the “I” in the band's name might be suggesting that they are Straight Edge. Anyway I Stand Alone plays very good melodic Hard Core/Punk and this demo really gets my hopes up high. From the pictures in the insert I gather that band members have been around for a while now so I'm sure they know their trade well. And you can really hear it listening to these 4 songs: there is a melody, again very good vocals that go perfectly with the music and everything in mid and faster tempos. I got the news that they are going to release their first EP together with a band called Handgun Bravado that has ex-Dag Nasty members! So now you know what's among their inspirations haha! I recommend this if you like melodic and energetic HC/Punk with some good sounding vocals! This really makes my day brighter!

www.istandalone.co.uk

Last Item – “Are You Really Down?” EP

(The Essence)

Finally a follow up to their awesome demo! 6 songs of really HARD Core music with some pretty pissed off lyrics. Their sound has improved and it's all just gone forward which makes this EP really good! Last Item is not typical Old School, as there are a lot of NYHC influences and they have been compared to Judge, which



wouldn't be far from the truth. I like it a lot, and I know that the band has recorded some new stuff already and currently is looking for a label that would be interested to release it. *"Hypothetically committed, internally frustrated. I just wonder if you have anything to say apart from analyzing other's lives..."*. These songs are really hard hitting! Awesome Hard Core band on a small label that puts out releases out of love for Hard Core – I don't need more than that.

www.theessencehc.com
www.myspace.com/lastitem

New Morality – "No Future" Tape (Light The Fuse)

Light The Fuse is not only one of the best European Hard Core festivals, but has become as well a record label! New Morality plays stuff inspired by NYHC in my ears, and I like their songs, sometimes only wish they picked up a little bit to give it even more power. But their mid-tempo style still comes out really good, and I'd like to hear it live. Lyrics are rather personal and have more "I" than "You", which is always good to hear. *"Looking back now I realize, pointed my finger in the wrong way. Blinded by my anger now I regret remains. Wish I did it different with you and me"*. This band has really big potential and I'm really curious about their future recordings!

thenewmorality@gmail.com
www.lighththefuse.nl

Nothing Done – "Powertrip" LP (Not Just Words Records)

Their EP was really good, and I think all the copies sold out very fast. This LP is even better and they recorded really impressive stuff here! 12 songs in 15 minutes – you get the idea. Fast Hard Core Punk with some cool chaotic moments, that remind me of Black Flag but that's probably not most accurate comparison. Their songs are really tight with good riffing, some cool bass lines and overall very energetic. They definitely know their instruments well, and know how to use them to write some awesome tunes! Lyrically they deal mostly with being misunderstood, fakers in the scene etc. and dude on vocals screams it out with conviction so I guess it's all based on their experiences. *"I'm in control! I'm in control! I'm in control of my life!"*. Oh yes, and opening intro to the first song on the record is one of the best that I heard in along time, perfectly organized chaos haha. Absolute power!

www.njwrecords.com
www.nothingdone.tk

Sirens – "Calling" CD (Let It Burn Records/Poison Free Records)

I like this a lot actually! I guess 10 years ago they might have been labeled as Hard Core with some Emo influences (I mean the real deal and not this poppy crap you hear nowadays), but I find it hard to describe exactly what exactly Sirens sound like. They play straight forward Hard Core with some great melody that makes them really stand out in my opinion. This CD has 6 songs on it which guarantees that you will get enough for your enjoyment and not too much to stop appreciating it. The lyrics are all personal about struggles and finding some freedom and fulfillment in our lives. It's worth to mention that people involved in

Sirens have been around for a quite a long time so they know what they are dedicated to. Really good stuff and I recommend this if you are looking for something deeply rooted in Hard Core with emotion and lots of melody.

www.sirenscalling.com
www.poisonfree.com
www.letitburnrecords.com

Turn The Screw – "S/T" EP (Not Just Words)

I heard their demo tapes, and there is a very visible progression between the first and second sessions they put out. These guys are pretty young as I gather from the photos, but already play good stuff. It's all influenced by Boston stuff, equally old and new bands and done pretty good. It's angry, fast with some slower parts and overall it's a good piece of vinyl. *"Every time you come up to me I know it's to tell me how much everything sucks and how you hate the things we do. Learn to live with it, cause things won't get better unless you start acting and thinking another way"*. Not Just Words just keeps not only supporting local scene, but also does not stop releasing decent stuff!

pietervanoost@hotmail.com
www.njwrecords.com

Wasted Time – S/T EP (Grave Mistake Records)

They start with a "Shameless" known from their demo and don't fucking stop going through another seven songs of fast and angry Hard Core. This EP is one of the best I have heard recently and have no doubts to recommend it. I have gotten totally into them just hearing first recordings that present some awesome song-writing as well as conscious lyrics. I'm still very much amazed by how good their lyrics are, starting with the way they are written, how much they contain, and what they express. This first proper release does not change my opinion that Wasted Time is one of the best bands that have come to be alive last year. *"Arrogant patriots and maniacs in power will bring this world to it's final hours. From greedy hearts and corrupt minds. So much to destroy and not enough time"*. I can't also help mentioning that the band already writes material for another record! Well done also Grave Mistake for putting out another great piece of wax!

Enough said, give it a try!
wastedtimesucks@yahoo.com
www.gravemistakerecords.com

Uhm, that's all for now.....

www.theessencehc.com



photo by Bartek Plucinski

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Last Item "are you really down?" 7"

HARD HITTING HARDCORE IN VEIN OF JUDGE

UPCOMING RELEASE: Soulfire 7" oslo city hardcore

"Living Graves" by George Bernard Shaw

*"We are the living graves
of murdered beasts,
Slaughtered to satisfy our appetites.
We never pause to wonder at our feasts,
If animals, like men,
can possibly have rights.
We pray on Sundays that
we may have light,
To guide our footsteps on
the path we tread.
We're sick of war,
we do not want to fight -
The thought of it now
fills our hearts with dread,
And yet - we gorge ourselves
upon the dead.*

*Like carrion crows
we live and feed on meat,
Regardless of the suffering
and the pain we cause by doing so,
if thus we treat
defenceless animals for sport or gain,
how can we hope
in this world to attain,
the PEACE we say
we are so anxious for.
We pray for it o'er
hecatombs of slain,
to God, while outraging
the moral law,
thus cruelty begets its offspring
- WAR."*





"Will we really live by what we say?..."



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